

The Baptist Record

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Carmen Jones, above, of Washington, Ill., talks with one of the children in Tupelo via hand puppets. Ruth Wiseman, at right, of Browns, Ill., points out a Bible verse during VBS at the South Canal mission center in Tupelo. At back right is Joice Knaak of Zion, Ill.



Carmen Jones, above, gets the full attention of the children who want to handle her puppets. Becky Arnett, at right, of McLeansboro, Ill., leads the younger children in a singing activity during VBS sponsored by East Heights Church, Tupelo.



Pam Welch of East Heights Church, Tupelo, listens to a dramatic reading from a teenager at the South Canal mission center's VBS. — Photos by Tim Nicholas

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Seven Illinoisans share love in Tupelo

By Tim Nicholas

Two school teachers, a homemaker, an associational secretary, a filter assembler, a cashier, and a convenience store night manager visited Tupelo recently from Illinois.

A couple of them dropped by to see Elvis Presley's home place, but sightseeing was not the purpose of their visit.

These seven women were the first contingent from Illinois in a series of mission trips related to a missions partnership between Illinois and Mississippi. This particular group was sponsored by the Illinois Woman's Missionary Union, according to Becky Arnett, schoolteacher and guidance counselor and a member of First Baptist Church, McLeansboro, Ill.

Each state's WMU is leading two trips to the other state, she said. Bill Smith, director of missions for Lee Association, made the request for the group to work at Tupelo. "This

association has really supported us," said Mrs. Arnett.

Their assignment was to lead a mission Vacation Bible School, an adult Bible study, and visit in local nursing homes in East Tupelo.

The VBS was in the South Canal mission center in a building renovated by East Heights Church in Tupelo. East Heights sponsors a Big A Club six months of the year, led by member Pam Welch.

Member Danny Smith led in the building renovation. He started the Big A Club two years ago in the mostly black community.

Smith credits the church's former pastor Raymond Spears with being instrumental in starting the ministry. Spears recently became pastor of First Church, Herndon, Va. As for Smith, "God has blinded me as far as color," he said.

Smith said the only people reached

thus far with the center is children. "We do hope to have a worship service here perhaps by this fall," he said. They have done a partial survey with he termed good response.

Smith said his church views the building on Canal Street as an outreach center, "not just for our church, but for any of our churches" which wish to participate.

A contractor, Smith said when he accepted Christ as an adult at age 23, he found out "I didn't have to do anything for my salvation. God just opened my eyes, my mind, and my heart and I accepted it."

He noted, "I couldn't go through life without telling people about Jesus. Since he volunteered to work with the mission center, "I feel I'm where God wants me."

The volunteers worked with good humor and high spirits through the week in Tupelo. Ruth Wiseman, the

filter assembler from Browns, Ill., said she was glad to have "the opportunity of trying to share love with the little children that appreciate a hug." She is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Mission of Mt. Carmel.

Mrs. Wiseman is a new Baptist, but a longtime Christian. She heard a WMU speaker who had been on a similar trip. "I was inspired to go on a trip and help someone," she said.

Joice Knaak, cashier for a hardware store, who is a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Zion, Ill., said she was amazed at one of the kids, about five "who can rattle off Bible verses, songs, and curse" equally as well. She said the child's "knowledge of the Bible is far beyond most."

Karen Springer, schoolteacher and member of Second Baptist Church, Marion, Ill., said the first day the kids were "making an issue of the dif-

ference in color. They were not being mean," she said, but "saying in their own way 'you don't really belong here, you understand that, don't you?'"

Mrs. Springer said that the second day, that attitude changed to "How long are you going to stay here?"

Other Illinoisans participating in the trip were Carmen Jones, homemaker and member of First Baptist Church, Washington, a suburb of Peoria; Virgie Brown, associational secretary, former home missionary, and wife of Mike Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church, Winthrop Harbor; and Mary Nelle Brock, convenience store night manager and member of Samaria Missionary Baptist Church, Albion.

Said Ruth Wiseman of the trip, "To really grow, you have to have a challenge."

Tim Nicholas is director of communications, MBCB.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

... and settled an issue

The Baptist Record has been involved in some major decisions during its history; and, evidently, more than one of them involved some amount of controversy. Notable among these was the establishment of the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1891. The 100th anniversary of the establishment of this board was one of the major observances during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

The two principal characters in the formation of the Sunday School Board were J. M. Frost, a Virginia pastor, and J. B. Gambrell, editor of the Baptist Record. They led opposing viewpoints concerning the establishment of the board. Frost favored. Gambrell did not.

The matter became a heated issue before the convention, mainly because it was felt by some that the creation of such a board would tend to cause pressure to be brought on Southern Baptists to use the board's literature regardless of circumstances.

Finally it was agreed that Frost and Gambrell would become a committee of two to draw up the document that

would formalize the establishment of the board. Gambrell agreed for Frost to write the document if it were agreed that he could write the final paragraph. Frost agreed with that if he would be able to write the concluding sentence.

Their historic document ended with these words.

"In conclusion your committee, in its long and earnest consideration of this whole matter in all its environments, have been compelled to take account of the well-known fact that there are widely divergent views held among us by brethren equally earnest, consecrated, and devoted to the best interest of the Master's Kingdom. It is therefore recommended that the fullest freedom of choice be accorded to every one as to what literature he will use or support, and that no brother be disparaged in the slightest degree on account of what he may do in the exercise of his right as Christ's freeman.

"But we would earnestly urge all brethren to give to this board a fair consideration, and in no case to

obstruct it in the great work assigned it by this convention."

The opera house in Birmingham was full, and Frost had to be lifted in through a window to make his report. He read the statement to a hushed convention.

John A. Broadus was president of Southern Seminary; and, though almost overcome by emotion, made a brief appeal for peace in the convention. The report was adopted with only 13 votes opposing it.

Frost was elected the first corresponding secretary; and, with \$5,000 borrowed from his wife, began the operation of the board.

This is a time when two giants on opposing sides of a question came together and settled an issue.

What a historic occasion it was!

The picture at right is an artist's conception of the meeting between Gambrell and Frost. Gambrell is standing. Frost is seated. The picture hangs in the halls of the Sunday School Board's building.



Guest opinion . . .

"My soul to keep"

By Leland L. Rainer

The anniversary of D-Day and the invasion of Normandy brought back poignant memories of individuals who, sharing the common experience, left a lasting impression on me.

One such person was a young, blond lad of 18 with an infectious grin and known to me only as Dakota during our brief association in this historic battle.

After three or four weeks of disorganized struggle in the hedgerows, at times finding the Germans to our rear and sometimes in front of us, our battle lines had stabilized and plans were being laid for a breakthrough toward St. Lo and on to Paris.

It was during this lull in activities that our infantry company received a contingent of much needed replacements; and several were assigned to my platoon — among them a brash young man who proclaimed to one and all that he was Dakota and that he had a strong desire to close with the enemy in close, personal combat. He emphasized this determination by fixing his bayonet with a flourish.

The other replacements displayed no such heroics, although they appeared to be a well-trained and disciplined group as the first sergeant

read off the roster and I welcomed them to our own little hedgerow.

On the second day of their arrival I had just finished a discussion with the sergeant as to the best way to handle this arrogant young warrior when Dakota approached with his disarming smile.

"Lieutenant," he said, "I have learned a lot about you, and we have a lot in common: I know your code name is Rebel because you are from Mississippi. I am also a southerner — from South Dakota. I know that you came up through the ranks and you dig your own foxhole. Before this war is over, I, too, will lead and not follow."

The sergeant walked away . . . slowly shaking his head.

Orders came down from division headquarters to begin the advance toward St. Lo. Intelligence had determined that the German main line of defense had been established about one mile from our platoon.

At 5:30 a.m. the following morning the 16-inch guns from a battleship offshore would begin a barrage of enemy lines, and we were to start our advance at 6 a.m.

All was quiet during the evening; but a slow drizzle began to fall about midnight, adding misery to the apprehension of the troops. It was a sleepless night.

Promptly at 5:30 the first salvo of the huge 2400-pound shells thundered above us. Their passage was accompanied by an awesome tearing sound, similar to the ripping of large pieces of canvas, followed by the distant ex-

plosions as they rained destruction on the enemy positions.

Beginning an inspection of our platoon, I had advanced about 100 yards to my right when a graceful arc of tracer bullets lit up the sky from a distant hill.

As I watched, fascinated, for some unknown reason I found myself back in geometry class at Meridian High with Miss Ida Kate Smith pointing to me and saying, "Little Rainer boy, stand up and give the class the definition of an arc."

At that moment my walkie talkie came to life with the urgent voice of the company commander. "Rebel, what in the world is going on down there . . . have you started a private war!"

I advised him that it was apparent the enemy had moved up during the night and established outposts with machine guns about a quarter of a mile away, but everything would be worked out.

It was then that I first noticed Dakota. His hands were trembling as he lay next to his foxhole, and his eyes had the same expression as those of a small boy bringing his sleeping bag into the house after deciding not to spend the rest of the night in a darkened backyard.

"Lieutenant," he said, "I'm scared!"

I knelt down beside him, "Dakota, we are all scared . . . but being scared and at the same time doing what we were trained to do is the best way to stay alive in this occupation."

His eyes softened and he continued, "How does the Lord's Prayer begin?"

Perhaps it was the tension of the moment, but for some reason I replied: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep."

"Yeah, yeah, that's it," Dakota replied; and I saw his lips moving silently as I turned to make my way back to the center of the platoon.

On the way, as I had done many times since landing in Normandy, I began my own prayer: "Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name . . ." It was then I realized I had misled Dakota with the first two lines of the childhood prayer most of us had learned in Sunday School, but I decided immediately that any prayer was appropriate in our situation.

The order to advance was given, and I was relieved to see among the first wave a tall broad-shouldered soldier with fixed bayonet. That had to be Dakota.

Progress was easy with little resistance during the morning but by late afternoon we began to take heavy casualties, and the war ended suddenly for me on a hillside on the road to St. Lo.

After many weeks in hospitals in England and the United States I arrived back home on the Southerner. I felt the warmth of Meridian, and life was good.

Standing on the cobblestones in front of the Union station I looked about and saw the familiar silhouette of the Threefoot Building and Lamar

Hotel.

I often pondered the fate of Dakota; but, having no idea as to his real name, I could only hazard the guess that perhaps he was dead . . . or, just as likely, now outranked me and was leading his own command as the war was winding down in Europe.

A merciful God dimmed memories of the terror of the battlefield — as he does with most combat veterans — and I found myself happy in my new job as the first Lauderdale County Veterans' service officer.

Years passed; and one night, as I went into the room of my first-born son to admire his new Cub Scout uniform and then tuck him into bed, I lingered to listen to his prayers.

He began his prayer with the familiar four line' couplet he had learned in Sunday School at First Baptist Church:

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep . . ."

I turned out the light and made my way to my own bedroom with memories of long ago flooding my mind and hoped against hope that somewhere in the great northwest a tall, blond man called Dakota was hearing his own little boy complete that prayer with "And if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." And, turning to his own bed, remembering that dreary, rainy morning in far away Normandy and the lieutenant who couldn't remember the beginning of the Lord's Prayer.

Leland L. Rainer lives in Meridian. He is a member of First Church.

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Baptists dispute government claims to properties in Israel

By Mike Creswell

JERUSALEM, Israel (BP) — Baptists are disputing with two city governments that have laid claim to parts of two strategic Baptist properties in Israel.

Negotiations with government offices have grown more tense in recent weeks following publication of articles in two major Hebrew-language newspapers which express strong criticism of Baptists.

The disputes center on the seizure of land occupied by Jerusalem House, a Baptist ministry center near the

Mandelbaum Gate in the historic center of Jerusalem and of land at Baptist Village, a retreat and conference center near Tel Aviv. The two actions apparently are unrelated.

About 20 percent of Jerusalem House's land will become part of a four-lane road, and a portion of the Baptist Village land will become part of a trash processing center.

Jerusalem House is on the border of Eastern Jerusalem, which is Arab, and Western Jerusalem, which is Jewish. Nearby Mandelbaum Gate was used as a main passageway be-

tween the two sectors from 1948 to 1967. Included in Jerusalem House are offices for Southern Baptist representatives and meeting rooms used for Vacation Bible Schools, student ministry, and other activities.

The city wants a new road behind the Jerusalem House building. Much of the property taken would be from a lot behind the building used for children's ministry, picnics and other functions. It includes a 100-year-old house once occupied by Horatio Spafford, author of the song, "It Is Well with My Soul."

Baptists are resigned to losing the property for the new road, which is a major project affecting many landowners in the area. But they object to the city taking the property without compensation. The Jerusalem House land with buildings has been valued at \$2.2 million, partly because of its strategic location near the historic gate; loss of 20 percent of the land would involve a sizable financial loss, said Southern Baptist representative John Anthony.

Another objection is that several years ago, unknown to Baptists, the ci-

ty rezoned part of the property for commercial use, making it liable to steep annual taxes. The front part of the property, containing Jerusalem House, remains tax-exempt, in keeping with its religious, noncommercial nature.

Articles have appeared in two leading Hebrew-language newspapers in Jerusalem which contained anti-Christian statements highly critical of Baptists. The articles accused Baptists of trying to evade taxes and alleged they are planning to construct a

(Continued on page 11)

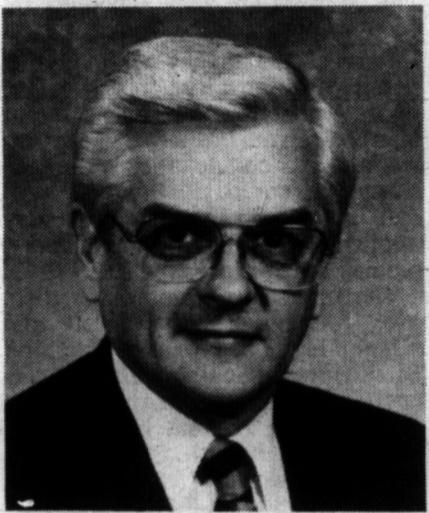
The Second Front Page

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Harold Fisher

Reception will honor Fisher

E. Harold Fisher, president of Blue Mountain College, will be honored July 28 with a reception. The public is invited.

The reception recognizes Fisher's

(Continued on page 11)

Embassy warns mission groups

By Mary E. Speidel

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries were among about 20 mission groups told by the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines that they could be targets of attacks by communist guerrillas.

Embassy officials told missionaries that the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Philippines' Communist Party, had reportedly issued a threat to an American missionary organization July 3 in Manila. The organization is not affiliated with Southern Baptists, according to officials of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The U.S. State Department has declined to identify it.

The warning came during a meeting at embassy headquarters in Manila July 5 with about 45 representatives of American missionary organizations in the Philippines, said Phillip Anderson, treasurer of the Southern Baptist mission, organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the country.

Embassy personnel are taking the threat seriously, said Sam Waldron, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission. But for now, at least, mission work will be affected only minimally, with missionaries planning to stay in place and projects by volunteers from

(Continued on page 11)

Youth Night will feature author

Youth conference leader and author Jerry Johnston, will be the featured speaker at Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, which takes place Thursday, July 27, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

Johnston, of Overland Park, Kansas, is author of *The Edge of Evil: the Rise of Satanism in North America, and Why Suicide? What*

Parents and Teachers Must Know to Save our Kids.

The program begins at 7 p.m. but at 6:40, there will be a mini-concert by Truth, a 22-member music entourage. The group plays "middle of the road style/contemporary gospel," according to their published materials. The group has performed more than 6,000 concerts in 20 years.

Also on program will be Doug Berky, a mime from Wake Forest,

N.C. Called "a thinking man's fool," by the Raleigh News and Observer, Berky's clowning, juggling, and acting combine to offer a fresh look at the impact of the gospel on a

person's life.

Youth Night, which annually attracts 10,000 young people from all over the state, is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Berky



Truth

Mississippi students will renovate Leningrad church

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union is sending 10 students and two of their directors to Russia July 23-Aug. 9 with cold chisels and brick hammers.

The hand tools will be used in efforts to renovate a church in Leningrad.

This first-of-a-kind trip is designed to turn a building back into a church. Built at the turn of the century, the church was originally a branch of the Russian Orthodox Church. The building closed as a church in 1933 and was used as a factory until last year when Baptists gained use of it. Baptists have named it Temple of the Gospel.

The Mississippi group is the fourth Baptist student group from the States to work on this project. They were preceded by three groups from Texas, Tennessee, and Alabama and Kentucky.

The students are hacking off old plaster and replacing it. They are living in the homes of Russian Baptist families and participating in worship services.

Baptist Press news service reported

that the Soviet Baptists said the project marks the first time outsiders have been allowed to work with them on such a basis.

Cost of the trip for the students is approximately \$1,400, \$550 of which comes from voluntary contributions through the Mississippi Baptist Student Union, the rest to be raised by the volunteers themselves.

The Mississippi group includes:

David Lee, a member of First Church, Columbia, and a student at Pearl River Community College; Kenny McCollough, a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon, and a student at the University of Southern Mississippi; Chuck Baggett, a member of Belden Church, Belden, and a student at Blue Mountain College; Hugh Freeze, a member of First Church, Senatobia, and a student at Northwest Mississippi Community College; Kenneth McCammon, a member of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, and a student at Northwest Mississippi Community College;

Andy Calvert, a member of

(Continued on page 11)

Shackleford, Martin are fired

In a closed door session of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Al Shackleford and Dan Martin were fired this week as director and news editor of Baptist Press. No charges were brought. Details were worked out in a closed door meeting by the Executive Committee's administrative and convention arrangements sub-committee and the Executive Committee itself. More details next week.

New writers begin lesson commentaries

Three new writers on July 1 began their six months of writing Sunday School lesson commentaries for the Baptist Record. They are Landers E. (Lannie) Wilbourn, pastor of Pinelake Church, Brandon, Bible Book; Bob Rogers, pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster, Uniform; and Jim Smith, pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, Life and Work.

Lannie Wilbourn, Kosciusko native, and his wife, Kathy, have two children, David and Joy.

Wilbourn is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, with M.Div. and doctor of ministries degrees from the latter. He has been pastor at Pinelake Church since 1977. Before that, he had served as pastor of Big Springs Church, Brookhaven; Shifalo Memorial Church, Kiln; and Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown. In 1984, he took part in a missions project in Argentina.

James Keith (Jim) Smith is a native of Philadelphia, Miss. He and his wife, Lois Adkins Smith, have four children, Stephen Keith, James

Michael, Maria Lara, and Philip Gipson.

Smith has a B.S. degree from Millsaps College, Jackson; M.S. degree from University of Alabama, and master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Before going to Mt. Gilead Church as pastor, he served First Church, Gautier, as minister of education and outreach. While in seminary, he was director of education, part-time, for First Presbyterian Church, New Orleans. In 1984-85, he was interim pastor for Rocky Springs Church, Yazoo County.

Robert C. (Bob) Rogers has been pastor of Calvary Church, Gloster, since 1987. Previous pastorates had been at Fort Adams Mission, Woodville; Union Church, Roxie; and Calhoun Church, Hot Coffee.

Rogers is married to the former Mary Wade of Lake. They have two daughters, Melissa, 6, and Lauren, 22 months.

He was graduated from Mississippi College in 1980. From New Orleans, Seminary, he has master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees.

Mississippi College will host a ministers' school

Mississippi College will host a ministers' school for pastors and church leaders Aug. 9-11 on campus. Reservations are now being accepted. The three-day school is geared for pastors and all staff ministers, bivocational ministers, associational directors, and chaplains.

The ministers' school is being offered to provide an inspirational and worship experience that will renew pastors and church leaders for Christian ministry. Additionally, the school will offer workshop experiences on biblical preaching, January Bible Study preview, leadership skill development, counseling, stress management, authentic worship, and strategic planning for the single-staff church.

Housing accommodations will be available for those who wish to stay on campus in the air-conditioned Gunter Hall. The cost will be \$8 per night for double occupancy or \$16 for a private room/shared bath. On-campus participants will have to furnish their own linens, pillows, towels, wash cloths, and other personal items. Rooms will be paid for on arrival.

Meals will be taken in the Morrison-catered cafeteria on campus with the Thursday evening banquet and the daily refreshments breaks complimentary. Other meals can be purchased individually, with breakfast costing \$2.40 and lunch and dinner

\$3.30 each.

Among the program personalities will be John G. McCall, head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Mississippi College and pastor emeritus of First Church, Vicksburg; Philips R. McCarty, professor of religion at the college; D. G. McCarty, pastoral ministries consultant, pastoral leadership/administration section, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, selected by Time magazine as one of the "seven most outstanding Protestant preachers in America"; Bradley J. Pope, a licensed professional counselor and staff counselor at The Shepherd's Staff Counseling Center in Jackson; Larry K. Salter, consultant to the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Billy E. Simmons, pastor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Seminary; L. Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the MBCB; and Julius C. Thompson, director of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the MBCB.

For a complete schedule and reservations form, write to Ministers' School, Mississippi College, P. O. Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058 or call (601) 925-3262.

Chapman visits BSSB

NAHSHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman predicted times of disagreement in the denomination are coming to an end and called for increased commitment to cooperative missions and reaching the world for Christ during participation in new trustee orientation at the Sunday School Board June 21-22.

The visit was Chapman's first to an SBC agency since his June 12 election as president of the 14.9-million-member denomination. As president,

Chapman is an ex-officio member of the board of trustees of each SBC agency.

"I come to you today to say I affirm you as one person and on behalf of Southern Baptists," Chapman, whose wife, Jodi, just completed eight years' service as a trustee, told employees during a chapel service.

Board President Lloyd Elder expressed appreciation to Chapman for making time to visit the board so soon after his election.

Alford replaces Harris as BSSB trustee

Ken Alford, pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has been elected a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, SBC, Nashville, Tenn. He replaces Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, who accepted the pastorate of Peachtree City Church near Atlanta, Ga.

Alford was in Nashville June 21-22 for two days of trustee orientation.

Alabama elects new executive

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — Troy L. Morrison of Montgomery, Ala. has been elected secretary-treasurer of the 1-million-member Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Morrison, 58, was elected July 2 by the 125-member Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions at a called meeting.

He was the unanimous choice of a search committee named last September to seek a successor to A. Earl Potts who will retire Sept. 1, 1990, after six years in the post. The committee was headed by Gerald H. Lord of Florence.

Morrison has been director of church-minister relations for the Alabama Convention since 1985. Before going to the board, he was pastor of Twelfth Street Church in Gadsden, for 17 years (1968-1985). Previously, he was pastor of churches in Kentucky and Alabama.

Morrison, born in Jamestown, received a bachelor of science degree from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala.; and bachelor of divinity, master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Morrison has served on the Kentucky and Alabama convention executive boards, and has been vice-president of the Alabama convention.

He is first vice chairman of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Nepal's king frees prisoners

KATMANDU, Nepal (BP) — Nepal's King Birendra has granted amnesty for all Nepalese prosecuted for religious activities, resolving a lingering question in Nepal's recent move toward democratic reforms.

A royal palace statement issued June 12 said all religious prisoners would be released and all charges against people awaiting trial for religious activity would be dropped.

Although not specifically mentioned in the announcement, the amnesty will mainly benefit Nepalese Christians arrested for proselytizing and people who converted to Christianity. Previously, both expressions of faith were banned by Nepalese law.

The king's amnesty will free 29 Nepalese Christians from jails throughout the country. Criminal charges against another 250 Christians will be dropped, according to a government spokesman.

After weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations forced King Birendra to enact sweeping governmental reforms in April, Nepalese Christians lobbied the new interim government for the release of religious prisoners. An international Christian human rights delegation also petitioned Nepal's leaders in mid-May to release the Christians held in jails.

Kenya, at halfway point

Crusade nets 20,814 converts, 24 churches

By Craig Bird

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP) — During the first half of the Kenya Coastal Crusade, 27 Southern Baptist missionaries and 256 American volunteers reported 20,814 "commitments for Christ" and organized 24 churches — including one for the deaf.

"No matter what the future holds we can say, because of these two weeks, at least one time in our lives we saw what God can really do," said Ralph Bethea, a Southern Baptist church developer in Mombasa, during a July 8 wrap-up rally for the first group of volunteers.

A second team, including a group from Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, arrived July 9 for the final two weeks of what has been called one of Southern Baptists' largest volunteer evangelistic projects.

Neither an isolated rock-throwing incident at a preaching site nor unrelated political unrest in the east Africa nation has affected the crusade.

Also at the rally volunteers gave approximately \$1,500 and pledged \$8,500 over the next four months to fund a follow-up push to ground the new converts in the Christian faith.

"We've had a lot of victories, but we've created a lot of problems, too — more than 20,000 of them," James T. Draper told the volunteers. Draper, who spearheaded the Kenya Coastal Crusade, is pastor of First Church in Euless, Texas, and a former SBC president.

"One of the valid criticisms of evangelistic efforts like this and a reason some folks react with less than enthusiasm is the lack of follow-up," Draper explained. "We have conserving some of the gains — there are 24 new Baptist churches in Kenya. But there's an obvious need to help these new Christians to mature as believers after they pray the sinner's prayer."

To address that issue Billie Hanks, a well-known discipleship seminar leader and evangelist in the United States, met with Kenya missionaries to develop a follow-up strategy and field test it.

"We think for about 50 cents a person we can finance a program of training and discipleship that includes two small tract booklets, 12 lessons of the Bible Way correspondence study, and a 14 week series of Bible studies led by Kenyan Christians," Hanks explained.

"So we'd like to ask you to pay for it. If every volunteer could pay \$40, spread out over four months if you like, then the Kenya mission can advance the funds and be reimbursed." The suggestion was accepted by acclamation.

Part of the money will make it possible for Kenyan pastors who served as translators for the volunteer teams to go into the areas where they worked and contact the new Christians personally. Pastors will distribute the tracts and Bible Way application forms and lead Bible studies in rural areas.

The tracts, in Swahili or English, are: "Beginning With Christ" and "Beginning Your Life of Fellowship." Bible Way is a Southern Baptist correspondence program which originated in Zambia but now has hundreds of thousands of students around the world.

The volunteers were also challenged to look upon their African experiences as a starting point.

"We're loading these missionaries beyond belief," said Bob Clements, a Foreign Mission Board trustee and evangelist from Austin, Texas. "I can't help but believe there are people here tonight that God wants to call out as career missionaries."

Bird writes for FMB.

Kenya's President Moi meets Chapman, Draper

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Morris Chapman, recently elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a former SBC president, James T. Draper Jr., met with Kenya's head of state Daniel T. arap Moi for 30 minutes July 12.

The two Americans, in Kenya to participate with Southern Baptist volunteers in an evangelistic crusade in Mombasa and other coastal cities, thanked Moi for his part in creating a responsive spiritual climate in the country, shared information about Southern Baptist involvement in Kenya and prayed for him as leader of the nation.

Moi expressed his appreciation of Southern Baptists' "great emphasis on reaching unbelievers," since often, "Christians get caught up in trivialities."

Chapman, pastor of First Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, said the half hour visit was "a most positive experience for us. Because of his background, the president readily identified with our heartbeat. He spoke favorably of Southern Baptists

and then went on to speak of his own church and his love for the Lord." Moi is a highly visible member of the African Inland Church, an evangelical, Protestant denomination.

A letter of introduction for Chapman and Draper from Tom Jones, administrator of the Baptist Mission of Kenya, informed Moi that Kenya Baptist churches baptized more than 47,000 people in 1989. It also said the number of churches has increased from 650 to more than 1,600 in less than five years.

During the past three years, Southern Baptists, through the Foreign Mission Board, have invested almost \$4.3 million in programs for Kenya, not including salary and support funds for 115 missionaries assigned to Kenya.

At the end of the session with Moi, Chapman asked if it would be appropriate to pray. Moi agreed. He "thanked God for the opportunity Southern Baptists have to witness in Kenya, for the strong Christian witness already in the country, and for divine wisdom for Kenya's president."



WMU sponsors Chicago project

A group of five Mississippi Baptists will participate, July 21-28, in a trip to Chicago for Christian missions. They will work at Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago, in Backyard Bible Clubs, in feeding the homeless, and ministering at nursing homes and halfway houses. The trip is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Woman's Missionary Union. Pictured are participants, from left, Opal Graves and Mary Jo Ingram of Meadville, members of Providence Church; Faye and C.A. Sanders of Slayden, members of Slayden Church; and Frances Downs of Shaw, a member of Linn Church.

Dilday clarifies N.O. statements

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A statement of clarification about comments made during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans has been issued by Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dilday said the statement is intended as a response to "persons who misinterpreted my intention in the comments I made in answer to a question during the Wednesday morning session (June 13) of the convention."

The seminary president said he has received "a strong response of encouragement from across the convention." However, "there have also been numerous letters and calls" from Southern Baptists who have asked for a clarification.

Dilday's original comments came during a question from messenger Michael Haley of Lakeland, Fla., who said he overheard a press interview in which Dilday referred to actions in the SBC as "satanic and evil."

In his clarification, Dilday said the comment — "that crass, secular political methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years has satanic and evil qualities to which I am desperately opposed" — was "only one response I gave to many questions from reporters in a hallway interview."

The statement of clarification continues, "For 12 years I have publicly denounced political activity on both sides in the convention as contrary to our biblical mandate. My statement to reporters in New Orleans was an attempt to say again that political activity in the Lord's work is wrong. It has engendered a decade of hostility which in turn threatens Bold Mission Thrust, damages missions and evangelism, weakens our testimony to the lost world, and divides not only the SBC, but state conventions, associations, churches, friends, and even families."

Dilday said his statement in New Orleans "was an attempt to express

the same concern the Peace Committee raised when it said, 'The extent of political activity in the convention at the present time creates distrust, diminishes our ability to do missions and evangelism, is detrimental to our influence and impedes our ability to serve our Lord.'

Dilday referred to Matthew 16:23, explaining, "when we use the ways of the world and not the ways of God, we become satanic; we become stumbling blocks to his work. The Bible says God's people should renounce 'disgraceful, underhanded ways, and refuse to practice cunning (2 Corinthians 4:2)'," Dilday wrote.

"It is my belief that no matter how noble a cause may be, we must not use unrighteous methods to accomplish that cause. The end never justifies the means," Dilday said in the clarification. "Therefore, political methodology on any side is wrong."

In the section of the statement titled "apology," Dilday said "it is obvious to me now that 'satanic and evil' have different connotations to different hearers, and that my choice of words blurred the intent of my statement, leading some to assume I had labeled fellow believers as satanic.

"That was not my intention, and if my statement was so perceived, I am truly sorry."

Dilday said he wanted Southern Baptists to understand that "I did not call the conservative movement in the convention satanic. I am a theological conservative and I am as determined as anyone to preserve our denomination's longstanding commitment to the Bible as God's perfect word. I did not speak in judgment of persons or motives — only methodologies and strategies that have been used by both contending groups."

The statement further states, "I certainly did not want to contribute to further erosion of our effectiveness in missions and evangelism, which is the very danger I have spoken against these past 12 years."

Mississippi Baptist activities

July 23-27 Super Summer; Mississippi College; 1 p.m., 23rd-3 p.m., 27th (DT);
July 27 Youth Night; Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson; 6:40-9 p.m. (PD)

Thursday, July 19, 1990

Moderates set Atlanta meet to frame alternate funding

By Jack U. Harwell

Moderate/conservative leaders within the Southern Baptist Convention have called a national meeting, to be held in Atlanta Aug. 23-25, to draft an alternate funding plan for those dissatisfied with the way the SBC Executive Committee divides the SBC Cooperative Program budget.

The meeting was called for by Daniel Vestal in New Orleans in June, the day after he lost the SBC presidential election to Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas. Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Church in Atlanta.

The Aug. 23-25 meeting will be held at the Sheraton Atlanta Airport Hotel, beginning at 1 p.m. on Thursday and adjourning at noon on Saturday. All sessions will be open to the public.

Vestal was joined in the announcement of the Atlanta meeting by the executive committee of Baptists Committed to the SBC. That committee met in Dallas, Texas, July 12-13, along with leaders of the Southern Baptist Alliance and SBC TODAY, to plan the Aug. 23-25 session in Atlanta.

Vestal told those meeting in Dallas: "We don't envision another political network to promote a presidential candidate in Atlanta in 1991. We are not out to create a new denomination.

"We just want to get on with the kingdom, with like-minded people. We need to come together, to talk about how best to cooperate for world missions in the future, in keeping with historic Christian and Baptist principles."

The group which met in Dallas will make four major proposals in Atlanta. One is that an alternate funding mechanism be put in place immediately, so churches unhappy with SBC budget allocations will have an optional vehicle for the SBC portion of

their Cooperative Program gifts. It will be recommended that this alternate funding mechanism be based in Atlanta, through the trust department of a bank, with full accountability. Respected SBC leaders will be nominated as trustees of the fund.

The second proposal will be an interim budget for division of funds received through the alternate funding program. Those attending the August meeting in Atlanta will share in drafting percentage divisions for that budget.

A third proposal will be a structure for a new fellowship to give ongoing leadership to those who support the fellowship. Several names have been suggested for the new group; they will be presented for vote in August.

It is being recommended that whatever fellowship grows out of the Atlanta meeting include representatives of Baptists Committed to the SBC, Southern Baptist Alliance, SBC TODAY, SBC Women in Ministry, SBC Forum, and Sons and Daughters of the SBC.

A fourth recommendation will be that an executive committee be created to plan for a national convocation next Spring, to recommend ongoing budgets, programs, and structures beyond 1991.

Jimmy Allen will join Daniel Vestal in presiding over the August meeting in Atlanta. Allen is president of Baptists Committed to the SBC. He was one of the last SBC presidents elected before the fundamental/conservative takeover began in 1979.

Allen told the group meeting in Dallas in July: "Our agenda is open. The blackboard is blank at the moment. We want input from concerned moderate/conservative Baptists

across the country. The Aug. 23-25 meeting will be open to everyone. We have no closed doors or hidden agendas."

Allen added: "There is a tremendous surge of energy and interest, and hundreds of ideas, from moderates all over the country. All kinds of meetings are already going on, related to division, restriction, deletion, escrowing, or slashing Cooperative Program funds going to SBC offices in Nashville. We hope our gathering in Atlanta in August will give some unity and vision, to get this energy and these ideas on the same track."

Vestal said in Dallas: "Some of us have been grieving for 12 years. It's time now to get on with it. I have a lot of urgency, a lot of hope, and a little bit of anticipation . . . I have come to trust Providence . . . I have come to trust people . . . I am trusting our process."

"Our personal spirits and our institutional spirits were broken in New Orleans. In our brokenness, we can become angry, we can withdraw, or we can deny. But I think we are ripe for God to use us in creating something new and visionary and historic."

Vestal said: "I'm scared. I'm uncertain. But we will walk together by faith, and I believe God will bless us."

Any questions about the August meeting in Atlanta should be addressed to Jimmy Allen at P. O. Box 100611, Fort Worth, TX 76185; phone 817-735-1640; or to Baptists Committed to the SBC, P. O. Box 56386, Houston, TX 77256; phone 713-520-0221.

Harwell is editor, SBC Today.

Virginia committees will provide choice for funding ministries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Members of two key Virginia Baptist committees have agreed to provide a "clear choice" for Virginia churches to fund ministries in their state and beyond.

The agreement, reached at a joint meeting June 28 of the Baptist General Association of Virginia's budget committee and denominational crisis committee, would permit churches to choose between two budget options in 1991.

The joint meeting was sparked by the decisive victory of conservatives at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans June 12-14.

Virginia moderates, long dissatisfied with the national denomination's rightward tilt, have discussed alternative funding procedures for several years, and many observers expected a moderate loss in June to generate alternate proposals.

Budget committee chairperson Mary Wilson of McLean anticipated reaction prior to the SBC by calling a meeting of her panel for June 28. Following the SBC annual meeting, BGAV President Raymond L. Spence Jr. of Richmond asked the crisis committee to join them.

Although the decision to provide two budgets is not binding on the budget committee, it does give the committee "a sense of direction" in proposing Virginia Baptists' ministry budget for 1991, said BGAV Executive Director Reginald M. McDonough.

Discussion at the June 28 meeting focused on the possibility of providing at least two options for churches as channels for their missions contributions.

The standard plan — variously called Option A, the traditional plan or the SBC plan — generally leaves intact the Cooperative Program budget format as it has operated for several years.

Although the division between Virginia and SBC causes might be changed — currently 62 percent of the \$16.3 million budget supports Virginia ministries and 38 percent funds Southern Baptist causes — the SBC portion would be distributed according to the formula approved by the SBC in June.

The revised plan — also called Option B or the Virginia plan — would reduce the amount of money in the SBC portion of the budget by percentages to be determined by the budget committee.

In addition, the SBC portion would fund only selected ministries, deleting agencies and institutions which moderates do not feel they can in good conscience support. The Christian Life Commission and Southeastern Seminary, both now headed by conservatives, were mentioned as possibilities by participants at the meeting.

The SBC portion of the revised plan would include contributions for the

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, whose budget was slashed by more than \$340,000 by the SBC in June.

SBC guidelines stipulate that if a church contributes funds to the national Cooperative Program while requesting that a portion of the funds be withheld for one or more causes in the SBC budget, all the church's contributions automatically become designated receipts and are not considered Cooperative Program funds.

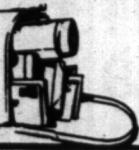
However, that does not affect a church's messenger status in the SBC, according to BGAV Treasurer Nathaniel Kellum. A church gains messengers on the basis of contributions to any SBC cause, not solely on the basis of undesignated contributions, he said.

That policy contrasts with Virginia's, under which messengers to the state's annual meeting are based on undesignated Cooperative Program receipts alone. There is a limited participation or negative designation provision which permits churches to withhold funds from selected Virginia causes if they choose to do so.

The negative designation policy will remain in effect if the two budget options are adopted, providing in effect a third option for churches who wish to design their own patterns of giving.

This story was written by Julian Pentecost and Robert Dilday of the Religious Herald, new journal of the BGAV.

Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

DOM search

Editor:

The Search Committee for the Metro-East Association is ready to receive recommendations and/or applications for the position of director of missions. We would appreciate your including the following announcement in one of the next few publications of your paper.

The Director of Missions Search Committee invites recommendations and/or applications for the position of Director of Missions of the Metro-East Baptist Association (MEBA), with offices at 15 Longacre Drive, Fairview Heights, IL. These should be by letter to the committee and directed to the chairman: Dr. Lloyd Jones, First Baptist Church, 1111 E. Highway 50, O'Fallon, IL 62269. Please send a current resume. Darrell Atkins, David Fannin, Wendell Garrison, Ruthie Laurie, Eugene Leftwich and Richard Mullan are also on the committee. MEBA is comprised of 45 churches and missions in southwest Illinois in the St. Louis metropolitan area east of the Mississippi River. Responsibilities include supervision of the directors of Church Development, Christian Social Ministries, Black Church Relations, and a Christian Activity Center.

Thank you for helping us to get the word out that we are searching.

Lloyd E. Jones, pastor
First Baptist Church
O'Fallon, Ill.

Dividing too long

Editor:

The Southern Baptist Convention has been divided for too long. Moderates charge conservatives with power politics. Conservatives accuse moderates of being unresponsive to the concerns of mainstream Southern Baptists. In the heat of the struggle, violence is being done to the kingdom of God. Jesus said the world would know we were his by our love for one another. How can we claim to love God, whom we have not seen, if we cannot love our brother, whom we have seen? The sad truth is that most of us are probably more willing to love Christians of other denominations than some members of our own denomination. Behold, how we love one another!

In light of this, I would pose a solution to this problem that has plagued us. Must we fight over which party shall control the office of president? Jesus said that if your right eye offends you, pluck it out! Abolish the office of president. After all, isn't God our king? Place whatever powers reside in that office with the Executive committee, with one important exception. Are the institutions unresponsive to the wishes of mainline Southern Baptists? Give the people power to elect the trustees. Allow each state convention to nominate and elect men they know to be good, to serve as trustees from that state. What could be more democratic? What could be more Baptist? In this way we can be assured that no one group has exclusive control; and we can focus once again on our primary concern: winning a lost world to Christ.

Philip Fox, pastor,
Vivian Church
Eufaula, Okla.

Unpopular, dangerous

Editor:

It is a law of editorial life that times come when unpopular and even dangerous stands have to be taken. I congratulate you for the courage to take what now appears to be a minority stance within our troubled convention. A friend, Charles Fake of FBC Rockport, showed me your editorial written before the last convention. I appreciate your mentioning that "frightening" possibility of reconstructionism agendas in the future. I think we can rest assured there are some long-range plans which reach beyond the makeover of our SBC.

Thanks for your courage which is obviously driven by some conviction. I just pray that men like yourself will not get so weary of the battle as to give up. I know it is easy for me to say this from the safety of a sympathetic and understanding pastorate.

God bless you and keep you penning.

Dale Pogue
Taft, Texas

Thanks for facts

Editor:

We thank you for your courageous presentation of the facts regarding the Baptist Joint Committee.

Not a printed word was wasted. We say this in the confidence that when you trust the Lord and tell people the truth, Baptists will ultimately do the right thing.

We are convinced that Southern Baptists as a whole believe profoundly in the separation of church and state and support vigorously the principled, non-partisan, focused work of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Baptists have never needed the BJC more. The Congress threatens both separation and free exercise with child-care legislation that would pump billions of dollars into church daycare programs. The Supreme Court has gutted the First Amendment in its Oregon v. Smith case by dismissing the free exercise of religion as a legal luxury.

The BJC's view of the proper role of religion in the public school was vindicated by the Supreme court in an 8-1 decision June 4, 1990. The Equal Access legislation, which we helped to draft, pass and defend, was held to be constitutional. Now it must be interpreted and implemented.

Southern Baptists have simply decided in six SBC votes and two dozen votes in various state conventions over the last six years that they will fund the BJC in a different way. That fresh funding approach will be closer to the people, truer to our Baptist heritage, nearer to those who believe in church-state separation, and freer of secular party pressures.

Because of the encouragement and tangible support of hundreds in your state we shall continue with you to defend freedom. The Baptist Joint Committee will be stronger and freer.

With the Lord's strength, your partnership, and the support of state conventions, local churches, and individual Baptists, the BJC's best days are ahead.

James M. Dunn
Executive director
Baptist Joint Committee on
Public Affairs

What "new forces"?

Editor:

Sir, I would like to reply to your statement in the editorial of May 10 namely, "We have been through the revolution, and circumstances have changed. For better or worse, we are different. The revolution is over. The new forces are in firm control, but they are reluctant to turn the convention over to the people."

What "new forces" are you talking about? It seems to me that the "old forces" have taken back again what was taken over by the liberal forces. Bible-believing people had no other choice than the one that was made. We realize that everyone is saying that they believe the Bible but some don't say what they mean when they say that. It is true that there are those that have departed from what Baptists have always believed. There was a time when Baptist books and Sunday School literature had wrong teachings in them but during the last ten years they have gotten better.

"But they are reluctant to turn the convention over to the people." It looks to me like the people have had control of the convention for the last 10 years. That is why changes have been made, no thanks to some of the editors of state papers. I guess that I just should have said, "Amen" to the letter of June 14 written by Philip Cooper, pastor at Corinth; because he hit the nail on the head. You have been so biased and one-sided in your editorials that for a time I wouldn't even read them.

Sir, I have been a pastor for 30 years, out where the rubber meets the road, and I would like to read my Baptist Record and feel good after I read it. God's Word never changes and you shouldn't be running with those that are trying to change it. Pray about it, for we must all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

A. C. Gore
Mantee, MS

You're wrong!

Editor:

As you know, a 300 word "letter to the editor" is quite limiting. So, I'll not only be brief, but also direct and to the point: You're wrong!

In your editorial of June 7, "A critical convention", you write, "There really are no great differences among us. There is no point in trying to convince people that there are except to win elections. And that makes the whole thing political." And that's nonsense!

Political, "color it black," especially if Bible conservatives act in a political manner; never mind, "liberals", more correctly, illiberals, have been doing just that for years: while suggesting "conservatives" not get involved in politics.

Your two closing paragraphs introduce a thought new to most of us, and of course you "color it black" when you write, "Then there is the most frightening thought of all, the possibility that reconstructionism could be a driving force behind the entire SBC takeover effort. Reconstructionism is the concept which sets forth the idea of the reconstruction of an entire nation along the line of a rigid Old Testament theocracy, which could easily turn into a religious dictatorship."

Horror of horrors! A nation wherein the righteous are rewarded and the wicked punished, for a change, by a benevolent dictator, God. I can now clearly see why you support the often errant position of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs on the

separation of church and state issues: which generally allow extreme license for the state and limited liberty for the Church.

I believe the inerrant Scripture we both profess, clearly teaches that what Israel failed to do (bring about a godly nation under a rigid theocracy) Christ will surely do when he brings about a world of nations under a rigid theocracy. And then, with or without you or me, Christ and his saints will reign and those who wish to "do their own thing" will not like it.

Bob Wells
Hazlehurst

No outside agency

Editor:

In your pre-convention editorial on June 7, 1990, you made among other points, the following:

1. The authority of the Bible is universally believed by all Southern Baptists.

2. Possibly reconstructionism is behind the SBC "takeover" (your term) effort.

3. There is an effort to remove the only bulwark against reconstructionism, the BJC, from Southern Baptist life.

First, at least one messenger made a point of inquiry of the chairman on nominations regarding how many nominees belonged to the faction that did not believe in a literal Adam and Eve, nor in miracles, nor that Biblical books were written by the stated authors, nor that the historical narratives in scripture were accurate and reliable, after that messenger incorrectly stated that the Peace Committee recommended that such faction should be included in the nomination process.

Second, one reconstruction is enough for any SOUTHERN Baptist; I shudder at the idea of another, but if, as I read one critic from the moderate camp write, Christian Reconstructionists argue that our laws should be based on Old Testament law, i.e., laws against murder, burglary, rape, abortion, wife abuse, etc.; if we could get past the term, it's something we might consider!

Third, if we need any outside agency, be it the BJC or the National Council of Churches, to save Southern Baptists, we are past saving, as we have ceased to be Baptists the moment we become ecumenical. The SBC in New Orleans did not rid us of the BJC. We still contribute a sum comparable to any other member group: we only followed the example of other Baptist members of the BJC such as the American Baptists, and funded our own independent voice in Washington.

Carl D. Ford
Laurel

Pastor in Germany

Editor:

The Anderson Memorial Baptist Church, a congregation of about 50 people located in Schweinfurt, West Germany, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with the American military. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English Language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a missions setting, please contact Mr. John Roamer, USMCA-DEH Box 125 APO NY, NY 09033. Please respond prior to 1 August 1990 for consideration.

John Roamer
Chairman, Pastor Search
Committee

Political reasons

Editor:

I am struck by the ingratitude shown by Southern Baptist fundamentalists in New Orleans toward the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJC). They cut the BJC's budget by 87 percent, took away its religious liberty function (as far as the SBC is concerned) and gave it and the \$300,000 budget to the Christian Life Commission (CLC) to set up a duplicative operation in Washington.

This represents small thanks for the landmark Equal Access legislation which the BJC supported in Congress in 1984 and saw through a recently successful Supreme Court test case. The legislation allows high schoolers to have "equal access" to school premises after hours for Bible club meetings if other clubs and activities are also permitted to meet.

This is a major step toward restoring an organized Christian witness on public school property that meets the requirements of church-state separation. We should applaud the BJC for its role in this significant achievement.

Once I thought that differences over school prayer were largely what raised fundamentalist ire with the BJC. Now to my surprise, I read in the Virginia, Religious Herald June 21, 1990, p. 5) that CLC head Richard Land "supports" the 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decision banning officially sponsored school prayers. So what was the fuss all about? This leaves me with the suspicion that BJC budget-cutting in New Orleans was done for political reasons, because the fundamentalists can't control the BJC, nor dictate their resolutions to it.

Clearly, giving the bulk of the BJC's budget to an inexperienced CLC to do the same job is poor stewardship of Cooperative Program offerings. To redress this wrong, churches should feel free to designate 1 percent of their Cooperative Program giving to the BJC so that it may continue to represent all Baptists in the vital area of religious liberty and church-state separation.

Hugh W. Olds, Jr.
Alexandria, VA

Editor:

The director of Home Missions for the Baptist Union of New Zealand has asked the FMB and me to work together in responding to their invitation for Partnership Mission Teams during October 7-14 of this year.

We are planning to take teams to 24 churches and need about 150 team members. We have approximately 75 team members enlisted at this time. The language is English, and the team members do not need an interpreter. This appeals to some of our people who hesitate going to foreign countries where interpreters are required.

Mississippi Baptists may already be involved in overseas mission projects, but I thought I would write and inquire about the possibility of several teams being enlisted from among your churches. The associational director of missions in Tampa, Fla. is working with us and perhaps there might be a director of missions or some "pastors" in Mississippi who might have an interest.

If you could share the need with appropriate persons, any interested director of missions or pastors could contact me or Bill Peacock at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond. Thanks for any help that you might give us.

J. W. L. Adams, Jr.
P. O. Box 7
Madisonville, TX, 77864

Clower for president

Editor:

While reading the Jerry Clower article on the front of the June 28, 1990, *Baptist Record*, I silently said, "Amen," all the way through. He certainly gets to the heart of the matter, and he has a way of saying just what needs to be said.

I feel that Mr. Clower would make a great president of the Southern Baptist Convention to represent "all of us Baptists who do believe the Bible."

Sue Freeman
Tupelo

Who can heal it?

Editor:

A grave damage has been done to Christian fellowship; and I hear no one saying, "I am sorry. Let's talk about it."

In the brighter days of the Southern Baptist Convention, brothers and sisters could disagree, vote in different ways, and still remain friends. But in recent years a spirit has crept in that God says he hates, "one who sows discord among brothers" (Proverbs 6:19; see vss. 16-19). Grave damage has been done. And only the hurt ones seem sorry about it.

A part of this is the "branding" of brothers who disagree. A vote against Dr. Chapman was interpreted as a vote against the Bible and for liberalism. The smear sheets have done it for years, and even our president was quoted as saying as much. The name automatically given to opposition is "liberal." Our Lord warned against this very thing:

I tell you: whoever is angry with his brother will be brought before the judge; whoever calls his brother "You good-for-nothing!" will be brought before the Council; and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell (Matt. 5:22, TEV).

The Bible, interpreted through the Spirit of my Lord, is my absolute authority. Yet some would call me names because I disagree with everything about the movement and vote for a different candidate. How dare them!

No one is saying, "I'm sorry. Please forgive me." Through the years hands have reached out with offers of reconciliation, but those hands seem always to have been from one side. Who is more like Jesus?

A grave damage has been done. Who can heal it?

Wesley Ellis
Germantown, Tenn.

Publish the names

Editor:

There was an interesting letter from a pastor (14 June) commenting on one of your statements in a previous editorial concerning the "inner circle" of the SBC. The writer calls your editorial "biased, one-sided" and asked you to "publish the names of the people who make up the 'inner circle' and especially the name of our 'leader'.

I believe this pastor is sincere in his belief and his questions; but for those of us who are familiar with the situation, the question of who are the leaders of the inner circle is about the same as asking "Who is buried in Grant's tomb?" A more appropriate question might be "Who led the Nazi takeover of Germany in the 1930s?" I don't think the leader of the takeover, Judge Paul Pressler, and his chief lieutenant, Dr. Paige Patterson, have tried to hide their identity. There is a lot of evidence that their "closet leader" is Rev. Jerry Falwell. I saw, repeat, saw Rev. Falwell and SBC President Vines on TV on one occasion last year. Falwell was seated behind his massive desk and Vines

was in a little straight chair in front of the desk, as a serf called before the king. They were busily bad-mouthing many of us in the SBC.

The tragedy is that a lot of people are sincerely following this crowd. They are profaning the Bible by arguing over it instead of applying its teachings, much the same as the political party of which they are a part is profaning the American flag by using it for political purposes. The writer mentions the meeting and talks about the "teaching, preaching, and singing." I watch some of the members of this group preaching on TV at times, and it is easy to see why people are misled. Words are cheap, as we found when Ronald Reagan told us in 1980 that he was in favor of a balanced budget.

Carl L. Hess
CW4, U.S. Army (Ret)
Ozark, Ala.

Top priority

Editor:

In your editorial dated Thursday, June 21, you stated in the third paragraph from the end: "President Chapman has declared such an effort (ie. getting together — mine) is to be his top priority. Let's pray that he is successful. And let's all help him as best we can rather than resisting any efforts toward healing simply because the president was elected by the 'conservative' side."

Then in the June 28 issue you devote nearly half the page to "Two Sizeable Camps." Although your intentions may have been journalistic, it certainly puts dirt in the wound and resists the efforts toward healing you recommended just the week before.

Although it was the third largest convention with only 40,000 messengers, they were messengers from the churches. This is the way we have directed our convention for many decades. And as only one of those messengers, I left the convention feeling that the messengers had spoken and the direction had been given.

I am for taking your advice (promote efforts toward healing) and may each one of us "let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:30-32).

Eddie Holmes
Mt. Pleasant

Liberal teachers

Editor:

I have a question for you. What convention did you attend? Your editorial of June 21 painted a picture of the convention in New Orleans being marked by paranoid despair. You claim, "Supporters of each faction were wary as they moved around the arena . . . because there were no distinguishing marks to tell one side from another. One seldom spoke to strangers." Our group spoke to everyone regardless of the fact that they wore the "distinguishing marks" of a Southern Seminary badge or a Mid-America Seminary ribbon.

Perhaps your strange assessment of the Convention reflects your true commitment to the "moderate-liberal" agenda. One can only label the implication as bizarre that "reconstructionism could be a driving force behind the entire SBC takeover effort."

The editorial goes on to encourage "moderates" not to bail out of the SBC. But defeated Dan Vestal told reporters, "Unless the fundamentalist group that won power Tuesday 'accepts the rest of us,' some moderates will leave the 14.9 million member church." (USA Today, 6/14/90) By Vestal's own admission, those who lost in the convention elec-

tions will be departing the SBC. They will probably join the Southern Baptist Alliance, a quasidenomination providing an umbrella of unity for "moderate-liberals."

In the June 7 editorial, you claim that the issue is not the Bible, "And that makes the whole thing political." Mr. McGregor, you are wrong! I can tell you from personal experience that we have men and women teaching in our seminary and college campuses who do not believe that all of the Bible is reliable. I sat under their teaching. The propagation of liberal theology is a fact in Southern Baptist education.

God has confirmed over the last 12 years that our convention is moving in the right direction. Mr. McGregor, wake up and put a stop to your inflammatory rhetoric.

Kevin J. Smith
Associate pastor
Ruleville Church

If there are liberals teaching in seminary classrooms, we are no closer to finding out who they are than we were 11 years ago. — Editor.

How long?

Editor:

I just attended my first Southern Baptist Convention. To my dismay, I found it generally being dominated by other than cooperating Southern Baptists. Other laymen need to be made aware of the extent to which the Southern Baptist Convention is not Southern Baptist.

I understand that the highly paid parliamentarian, who wields tremendous power in our convention, is a "Church of Christ" minister. I wonder if our piano offends him? Even more, I wonder if he says to himself, "Look at all those lost Baptists who have not been scripturally baptized?"

The Committee on Nominations is all powerful in that it controls the appointments to boards and committees. The chairman of this committee was discovered not to be a member of a church in fellowship with our convention. He had nominated two of his church members to positions on the Home Mission Board and the Education Commission. After this was brought to light, we had to make substitutions for them. This has to raise the question "How many others, true affirmations were not discovered, did he manage to slip on our boards and committees?"

This selection of other than Southern Baptists to lead our convention shouldn't have come as such a surprise. In most churches you have to contribute 10 percent to be a deacon. One of our most recent past presidents — Charles Stanley — led his church to contribute the princely amount of 2.6 percent in 1987 with \$1 of this non-designated. He long ago showed his Falwell roots.

How long will we allow this to go on?
Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

Low view of scripture

Editor:

Several people have written to the Record expressing their indignation at the accusation by Southern Seminary trustee Jerry Johnson that President Roy Honeycutt has a low view of the Bible.

The evidence speaks for itself. Mr. Johnson's accusation was contained in a well-documented article based on Dr. Honeycutt's comments in Broadman Bible Commentary and until Baptist Bookstores cease to carry Broadman; until Broadman is removed from circulation, until Adult Teacher closes to recommend Broadman as a "source of additional help for studying and teaching" and until Dr. Honeycutt disassociates himself from his commentary on Exodus,

pages 312, 317, 318, 333-336 and his commentary on I and II Kings, pages 228, 229, 238, and 242 as contained in Broadman, then his view of Scripture will remain suspect and no amount of indignation against Jerry Johnson or defense of Dr. Honeycutt will clear him.

Neither Trustee Johnson's age nor the fact that he did not attend Southern Seminary disqualifies him from speaking and President Honeycutt's position should not make him immune from criticism when justified.

Louise Shannon
Yazoo City

In each of the passages referred to, Honeycutt points out that there are several interpretations by various commentators but that no comment should take away from the miracle that occurred. — Editor

A peculiar preacher

Editor:

A couple of months ago, I saw an ad in your paper for *Mud on My Shoes, the Story of a Peculiar Preacher*, by Ray Megginson, Box 834, Semmes, Ala., 36575, \$8.00.

I couldn't wait to order this book as I was at Clarke College, 1941-43, with him and the LOVE of his life, Cleo Faggard, now Mrs. Megginson.

This is one of the most fascinating books I have ever read, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who would read it. Anyone would be blessed as I was as they told of the many trials, tribulations, joys, and thrills of establishing missions and helping to build little churches with very little money. But it was worth it all as they led many people to the Lord.

This book would be especially helpful and inspirational to young people seeking the Lord's will for their lives.

There were also many amusing incidents that Ray told as well as many unanswered prayers and miracles from the Lord.

We were at Clarke during the war years — very few in number and hard times financially. But I think the sweet Christian fellowship that we enjoyed at that wonderful school made an impact on everyone of our lives.

May I add that every penny from this book will be added to a scholarship fund for other young Christian students in memory of Ray's parents.

I, for one, predict that Ray and Cleo (Faggard) Megginson will have many stars in their crowns, "... when at evening the sun goeth down."

I could go on and on about this book, but have had to rewrite this three times to keep it under 300 words.

Thank you so much, Mr. McGregor, and may God continue to bless you and your (and our) paper.

Inez Milner Weems
Batesville

Political Pharisees

Editor:

I have been an active Baptist layman for more than a half century. I have held virtually all church offices except pastor and officer of the WMU. I am a graduate of a Baptist college, have served on the state convention board including offices and committees, have been an officer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and have served as a trustee of Mississippi College. This is not said in the spirit of boasting but to show my involvement as a Baptist.

To sum up my reaction to the convention in New Orleans, one word will suffice — "disgusting." All the pious talk prior to the convention about trying to heal the breach in the convention was just that — talk.

In the New Testament the Pharisees were the inerrantists who

were often calling Jesus' attention to those portions of the Bible that they considered to be inconsistent with the teachings and actions.

The most appropriate tag for the "conservatives" is Pharisees. Because of their political activity, perhaps the complete title would be political Pharisees.

Through the ages religious groups have sought to intimidate those who believe differently. Fortunately, the "conservatives" or political Pharisees cannot inflict physical torture; however, they can and do employ firing from jobs and various other types of pressure.

The purpose of this letter is to express my concern to what is happening to the people called "Baptist." Unfortunately, I have no quick solution to offer. While I believe that the current crop of political Pharisees will be unable to ultimately establish their version of inerrancy among the majority of real Baptists, they have captured and may well destroy the Southern Baptist Convention.

Many Baptist now are beginning to see there can be no unity with those who demand absolute control over our faith and consciences as the price for unity. We are seeking a way for the future. Perhaps the SBC has grown too large and needs a division. While I will regret the destruction of what we have built over the years, I am afraid that there is little left of the cooperative spirit that was the real essence of the convention in which I have participated over the years.

M. W. Perry
Philadelphia

Post convention blues

Editor:

The liberals got a lickin' at every convention session and returned home with the post convention blues. Confused even as to how to refer to themselves having gone from the accurate name of "liberals" to the misleading "moderates" or "centrists," and now to the ridiculous misnomer of "conservative/moderates," these liberals are disappointed as well as disgusted that they did not have a victory to gloat over the conservatives. Therefore they resort to childish tactics.

One such example was the Cafe du Monde gathering. Some of the conservatives chose this spot to celebrate because this was the previous meeting place for the Paul Pressler/Paige Patterson meeting. Knowing this, the liberals attended for the specific purpose of making a scene. As the conservatives broke out in song, the liberals shouted, "Shame! Shame!" What inappropriate behavior for adults — especially for those who supposedly have some character about them!

When asked, "When will the controversy end?" I replied, "Not until our Lord returns, because then the liberals' target of attack will be removed." Until that time they will still be moaning the blues.

Vaughn Denton, pastor
Kirby Parkway Church
Memphis

Street lamps

Light from the street lamps
shining
along our path
gives light
to guide us
during the night.

And there's
a Greater Light,
The Son of God,
shining
to guide us
through the darkest
of nights.

—Ruby Singley
Columbia



MEET THE MISSIONARIES — Don and Ina Frazier, Southern Baptist missionaries to Nigeria, greet Alan, Joanne and Phillip Moore during a missions fair at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. The Moores, members of Calvary Church in Milton, Fla., were among more than 2,000 people attending "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest. One of the activities of Jericho allowed participants to experience what life would be like without the Cooperative Program. Participants were given 10 pieces of fake paper money to give to missionaries they met that impressed them. Those missionaries with the best stories or the best costumes collected the most money, illustrating the inequity Southern Baptists would face in distributing missions money without a unified funding plan. (BP photo by Mark Wingfield)

Pink cash teaches value of cooperative giving

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries resorted to gimmicks and quick moves to raise money during a make-believe demonstration of life without the Cooperative Program.

Ten fake \$10 bills were given to each person registering for "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in the North Carolina mountains. Participants were told to give the pink paper money to missionaries that impressed them during an afternoon missions fair.

The random distribution of funds resulted in one missionary couple having to carry their wad of money in a plastic bag. Another missionary gathered only \$30 because she was caring for her children and doing laundry the afternoon of the missions fair.

The project illustrated the inequity of requiring missionaries to raise their own support, said Bill O'Brien, executive director of public affairs for the Foreign Mission Board.

The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget, is "the genius of cooperative missions that every other major missions effort would like to have," O'Brien said. He commended Jericho participants for giving \$5,771 in real money to the Cooperative Program the day before "so all home and foreign missionaries will get an equal share."

During the missions fair, Betty

Walker said a Christian theme park was being built on the island of Dominica where she and her husband Fred serve as foreign missionaries. With a large gift, she jested, a water slide would be named for the donor. In reality, an amusement park is in stark contrast to the Walkers' evangelistic ministry among the poor and often malnourished islanders.

Raul Vazquez, language missionary in Miami, wasn't as bold. "I have a hard time asking for money," he said. "If this were real, I'd be one of the poor missionaries."

Bob Freeman, a home missionary in Buffalo, N.Y., gained sympathy by describing the cold, harsh winters in western New York. He also gathered money by picking pockets as people listened to his tales.

At the beginning of the missions fair, Joe and Elaine Armstrong contributed to the first missionaries they saw. But the members of Bardstown Baptist Church in Bardstown, Ky., were determined to "figure out a system" to distribute their money more evenly.

The Pettyjohn family, including parents Andy and Susan and sons John Mark and David, gave their money away on a first-seen, first-served basis.

Consequently, foreign missionaries dressed in attire from the countries they serve received most of the family's money. The Pettyjohns are members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Independence, Mo.

By Sarah Zimmerman

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The challenge to do mission work and support mission work was the unavoidable message to 2,129 Southern Baptists attending "Jericho: A Missions Festival."

The program at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center included commissioning of 62 home missionaries and resulted in 62 public decisions.

The conference was a joint effort of the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary

Union, Brotherhood Commission, and Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 62 decisions included two professions of faith, eight for home missions service, 13 for foreign missions service, 13 for either home or foreign missions, and 26 other decisions such as rededications or commitment to volunteer missions.

Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president, began the week by urging Southern Baptists to tear down dividing walls and give sacrificially to missions. Participants responded

Trustees approve end of BTN

NASHVILLE (BP) — Emphasizing a continuing commitment of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to video production for churches, the trustee executive committee approved unanimously a recommendation from President Lloyd Elder that the Baptist Telecommunication Network "cease its satellite transmission and terminate subscription agreements and production contracts, effective October 1, 1990."

During the June 21 meeting, Elder called the decision to close down the satellite teaching and training network "one of the hardest I have had to make at the Sunday School Board." He praised the efforts of employees and thanked subscribing churches for their support.

"BTN has been a noble, valuable ef-

fort, but it was never intended to become a subsidized ministry to a small number of churches," he said. "It was always intended to be a self-supporting network in service to the churches."

At present, 1,657 churches and other SBC entities subscribe to BTN, but a minimum of 3,800-4,200 subscriptions are needed for the network to reach a break-even point.

Elder said the board has invested about \$14.3 million in BTN to date and would have to continue investing about \$1 million per year for the foreseeable future if current subscription trends continued.

During 15 minutes of discussion, several trustees spoke, all in favor of the recommendation.

Gene Mims, pastor of First Church

of Cleveland, Tenn., and chairman of the executive committee, said: "This is a good decision. It's just too bad it had to happen. We can't make this decision without realizing 1,600 churches are affected."

The recommendation approved by trustees includes a commitment to continued video production after a time of study and research "to discover, design, and deliver market-proven video communication products and services."

Elder said about 25 full-time positions related to BTN will be deleted. He said first consideration will be given to BTN employees in filling other vacant positions at the board and that assistance will be provided for those seeking placement outside the board.

Mission station set: Indian Ocean

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (BP) — Fred and Sami Sorrells may not be little fish, but they certainly are swimming in a big pond.

The only Southern Baptist missionaries on the massive island of Madagascar off the coast of east Africa, they have accepted mission responsibility for the island nations scattered around the western Indian Ocean where no Southern Baptist work is established.

"This new assignment is really an answer to prayer," said Sorrells, of Brady, Texas.

Madagascar is playing host to the Indian Ocean Island Games Aug. 24-Sept. 2, which will attract top athletes from throughout the islands.

Baptists are planning a high-energy evangelistic effort at the games. They are helping stage the opening and

closing ceremonies, will run the welcome center and will hold evangelistic crusades in a 7,000-seat amphitheater right beside the main athletic stadium.

Since few Christians live in many of the countries involved, Sorrells sees the games as a great evangelistic opportunity.

"But we had been concerned about how to follow up decisions athletes and spectators may make in Madagascar and then return home thousands of miles away," he added. "With this new assignment, I'll be able to contact new Christians when I visit the countries to see about starting permanent Baptist mission work."

Sorrells will identify needs and provide ministries to groups in the islands who now have little contact with evangelical Christians. He also

will continue his primary assignment as an agricultural evangelist in Madagascar.

Sorrells' training in French will carry over to most of the island nations, such as the Comoro Islands, Reunion and Rodriguez Island (a part of Mauritius), where French is the official language. Additionally, his agricultural background will allow him to use development ministries in countries that might not welcome a full-time church starter.

Rather than diluting his efforts on Madagascar, Sorrells thinks his new task will challenge and involve Baptists there.

"There are settlements of Malagasy people in most of the countries," he said.

Ethiopia missionaries cope with strife

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — A degenerating civil war situation in Ethiopia and deadly food riots in Zambia have led missionaries in the two African countries to limit travel and maintain low profiles.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Lusaka, Zambia, said in late June that things were tense, but none felt in immediate danger.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, is awaiting a threatened attack by forces of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. In a rebel radio broadcast monitored in Nairobi by Kenyan news agencies, the EPRDF claimed to have killed 22,000 government troops in three weeks in June.

Two other rebel groups also are fighting the Ethiopian army. Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam told international reporters in late June that the country was "on the verge of collapse," and ordered a general mobilization.

All Southern Baptist work upcountry has been suspended since last November, when rebels captured the region where missionaries operated feeding stations and development projects. The missionaries evacuated to Addis Ababa.

Missionaries currently in Addis Ababa include Jerry Bedsole of Foley, Ala., and Rosie Bedsole of Splitlog, Mo.; Paul Gay of Cuthbert, Ga., and Hannah Gay of Jackson, Miss.; John

Lawrence of Jonesboro, La., and Mary Lou Lawrence of Amsterdam, Mo.; Howard and Belinda Rhodes of Friona, Texas; Rob Ackerman of Wheaton, Ill., and Patricia Ackerman of Albuquerque, N.M.; Jeff and Margie Pearson of Mora, Minn.; and David Brownfield of Bozeman, Mont., and Debbie Brownfield of Columbus, Ohio.

In Zambia, the government has instituted a 24-hour curfew in response to rioting that reportedly has left 14 people dead.

The Baptist office building in Lusaka was closed June 25 so workers could avoid risking harm while trying to come to work. The 18 missionaries in Lusaka said they are staying inside and keeping a low profile.

"Jericho" festival results in 62 public decisions

By Sarah Zimmerman

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Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president, began the week by urging Southern Baptists to tear down dividing walls and give sacrificially to missions. Participants responded

by giving \$5,771 to the Cooperative Program, the largest Sunday offering received at Ridgecrest this year.

Mission support through prayer was an integral part of the program. Missionaries led small group prayer sessions before each evening program. Prayer vigils were held from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. two nights — once to pray for the nation and once to pray for the world.

Tuesday evening, Bob Logans, pastor of First Church, Chesterfield, Mo., said praying for missions is necessary but not enough. The Great

Commission, he noted, says, "Go ye therefore, not sit ye and pray for."

Visible reminders of world missions were 70 black flags representing the thousands of nations and people groups which have limited access to a Christian witness. The black flags were displayed with flags of countries and states where Southern Baptists have mission work.

During the final session, Esther Burroughs, assistant director of the Home Mission Board field staff and evangelism development division, asked participants to bring a black

flag to the altar as a commitment to pray for limited access countries and people groups.

"What a beautiful moment," Bill O'Brien, worship leader and Foreign Mission Board executive director of public affairs, said when all of the black flags were laid at the altar.

"There are no black flags. Could this be a prophetic moment?"

O'Brien's final reminder was that "God probably cannot do a work in people who have never heard until he does a work in us."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Newton Association Acteens help send leader to Chile

By Betty Smith

Last year, Jymmie Martin of Newton felt God calling her to become involved in foreign mission projects. She says, "I told the Lord there was no way I could go on a mission trip — I'm a full-time student at Clarke, I have a husband and three children, I work full-time. Since I didn't have the finances for foreign missions, I decided to go with a group from First Church, Newton, to Saline, Mich. There we led Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible School, and conducted a door-to-door survey."

Back at home, Jymmie was soon caught up in her busy fall schedule. She and her husband, Allen, are dorm parents in the boys dorm at Clarke; both are full-time students — Allen at MC and Jymmie at Clarke. Allen is pastor of Crossroads Church near Decatur. Jymmie leads an Acteens group at First Church, Newton, as well as at Crossroads. She is associational Acteens director, and she works part-time in the administration office and in the cafeteria at Clarke. In addition, she and Allen have three children, ages 14, 11, and 9.

During Spiritual Emphasis Week at Clarke this spring, Jymmie again felt God leading her to volunteer for foreign missions. A few weeks later, at the associational WMU Spring Meeting, she picked up a flyer about a mission trip to Chile.

On Earth Day, Jymmie asked her acteens at First Church, Newton, if they would collect materials to recycle to help her go to Chile. They agreed enthusiastically. Acteens throughout Newton Association joined the effort. Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women heard about the venture and wanted to have a part. In addition, individuals made contributions to help Jymmie go to Chile.

Jymmie says, "Money that I make from sewing, cake decorating, cleaning houses, working in the college cafeteria and administration office is all set aside for Chile."

Jymmie is appreciative of the help of Acteens and others. She feels that the involvement of so many people in her trip to Chile will make the trip more meaningful.

Ten women joined Jymmie for the trip to Chile July 12, to return on July 24. While there, the women will teach Vacation Bible School for the children of missionaries while the missionaries are in their annual mission meeting. Others on the team are: Betty Dobbs, Philadelphia, group leader; Alta Walker, Crystal Springs; Susan Kinton, Philadelphia; Lou Hayes, Biloxi; Kathryn Houston, Booneville; Myrtis Richardson, Philadelphia; Betty Davis, Laurel; Irma Racey, Biloxi; Nelda Lewis, Philadelphia; Ruby Thompson, Clinton.

— Reprinted from *Alongside*.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

My "Jackson mother"

When I arrived for my first look at the editorial office of the *Baptist Record* in April, 1953, the person who first greeted me was Eleanor Smith, one of the secretaries there. The office was then on the left, midway down the hall, first floor, of the Baptist Building when it was at the corner of Mississippi and Congress. Only a few weeks later, the editor, A. L. Goodrich, moved into the front office, across from the executive director, Chester Quarles. Mrs. Smith and I moved into the tiny cubbyhole of an outer office, (just room for our desks, pushed together L-shape, and a narrow pathway for visitors to the editor's office to squeeze by us.) One advantage: We could see out the front window to watch any exciting events at the state Capitol.

My first Sunday in Jackson, after I began work for the *Record* on May 20, 1953, Mrs. Smith and her husband, Doss, invited me to be their guests for lunch. After I visited their church, Van Winkle, we ate at the Jitney Jungle cafeteria on Capitol Street, a block and a half from the Old Capitol.

That fall, her daughter, Daunie Jean Nettles, a former editorial assistant for the *Baptist Record*, worked in my place so I could return to Southwestern Seminary for a final semester.

In August 1955, when I returned home from a summer tour of Europe, W. D. and I set our wedding date one month later. Since my own parents lived 330 miles away, Mrs. Smith set to work to help me plan my wedding, and took charge of many of the details of the reception. On September 25, at First Church, Jackson's chapel, at 4 on a Sunday afternoon, her 3-year-old granddaughter, Cynthia Nettles,

flower girl in our wedding, wore a white dress, a replica of mine.

Before 1953, Mrs. Smith had already worked with the *Baptist Record* for 10 years. For 11 more, she and I shared that tiny office, and became the closest of friends. We talked to each other of our past and of our future, of our annoyances and of our victories, of our joys and our sorrows. She filled me in on all kinds of Mississippi Baptist background that I needed to know.

She talked to me about her children, Daunie Jean and Edgar, and her grandchildren, Cynthia, Sheryl, and little Edgar. I talked to her about my family.

During days in the "old" Baptist Building, we had coffee breaks around a big white table, in a small basement kitchen. Mrs. Smith would bring cakes to serve with our coffee. One of her best was date-nut cake. Here's the recipe she gave me and that I've kept in my cooking scrapbook:

1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
2 tbsps. grated orange rind
4 eggs
4 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup chopped dates
1 1/2 cups milk
1 cup fresh orange juice
2 cups sugar

Cream butter and sugar well and blend in orange rind. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift flour and baking powder together. Add one cup to nuts and dates, mixing so as to separate and coat well. Fold in pecan-date mixture. Bake in greased floured tube pan (10 x 4 inches) at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Remove from pan and turn upside down. Pierce through cake with metal skewer or ice pick at close intervals. Dissolve sugar in orange juice and pour over hot cake. Cook before cutting.

Twenty-six years after her retirement she died of congestive heart failure, at age 88, on June 27 of this

Campers meet in Cajun country



It was too hot to do much but sit around and talk. Mississippians around the picnic table at the national COM

By Anne W. McWilliams

"Vive La Bonne Nouvelle (Long Live the Good News)! The 1990 National Rally of Campers on Mission took place June 19-24 in French-speaking south Louisiana. Campers from across the nation gathered at Harry Smith Lodge, Broussard, in the heart of Cajun country. Among them were 23 camping units from Mississippi.

The group heard testimonies and special music and took part in a missions fair and an arts and crafts fair. Louisiana Campers on Mission (Ford Fallin, president) and the Louisiana Disaster Van served two of the evening meals.

John Gilbert, Louisiana, retired director of missions who has Mississippi roots, spoke on Friday night. Mark Short, executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention, brought the Sunday morning message.

Saturday morning conferences covered a variety of subjects such as RV maintenance tips, electrical safety at the campsite and home, hosting a national rally, disaster relief, volunteers in mission building projects, using humor and/or magic in missions, resort ministries, music and drama, fairs and festivals. Also, for the first time, a WMU conference was added to the C.O.M. agenda. Nelda Seal, director, Louisiana WMU, led it. One of the most popular conferences was "Cajun Cooking."

Ed Schilling was chairman of the national rally.

A group of Mississippi campers left Broussard early Sunday morning, June 24, to travel to Hope, Ark., where they were to be involved in a week-long volunteer mission project at a center for ministry to migrants.



Mississippians meet for coffee at Harry Smith Lodge, Broussard, La. This group was part of 23 family camping units from the state at the National Campers on Mission Rally. Left to right are Jesse and Inell McMillan of Kosciusko; Marie Hughes of Brookhaven; and Agnes Worrell of Ackerman. Mrs. Worrell's husband, Bruce (Red) Worrell, is vice president of Mississippi COM.



Louisiana Disaster Relief personnel cook supper for campers.

Bulletin

The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, reports that all missionaries are safe, following an earthquake in the Philippines this week. Earl and Marjorie Kelly, have been missionaries in the Philippines this year. However, this week they were reportedly in Bangladesh.

year. I miss her, though I had not seen her as often in recent years. It was good to know she'd be there to listen any time I called, or to answer questions about people and events of the past.

When I heard of her death, I immediately thought of my last visit with her, when Mama and I went to see her. As we were leaving, she hugged me and said to Mama, "Anne is mine, too." And I told her, "I love you. I've always thought of you as my Jackson mother." I'm grateful that for 37 years she was my faithful friend.



Sid Cruthirds of Ocean Springs and Mary and Howard Conner of Smithdale were among Mississippians in Broussard. The Connors were getting ready to fold their pop-up and spend the night in someone else's camper, since they wanted to leave early next morning to work in a migrant mission project in Hope, Ark.

Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

Jan. 1, 1990-June 30, 1990

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				
Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	
ADAMS			WEIR			WILMARKET			WIND-MADISON			WISDOM			WISCONSIN	
BETHEL	632.31	362.90	1,015.21	2,620.16	3,133.75	5,953.91	30,681.00	61,287.20	355,700.56	197,597.20	553,387.76	1,915.00	1,352.54	3,267.54	9,566.08	
BIRCH AVE	60.94	151.81	232.75	CLARKE	412.58	700.00	1,112.58	1,171.16	3,210.74	44,595.75	120,912.49	GLADE	1,155.20	1,499.33	2,654.54	10,000.00
CALVARY	2,045.00	1,108.00	3,153.00	ANTIOCH	2,147.16	2,099.55	4,237.71	1,951.51	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	GRACE	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
CLIFF TEMPLE	11,202.97	6,125.72	17,148.69	BUCATUNA	1,920.00	1,920.00	3,840.00	1,915.50	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	HARMONY	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
COLOMBIA	1,020.00	1,020.00	2,040.00	CALVARY	1,776.58	2,292.00	4,068.58	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	HIGHLAND	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
CRAVEN	50.00	1,020.00	1,070.00	CAVENDER RIDGE	1,920.00	1,920.00	3,840.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	HILLCREST	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
FBC NATCHEZ	38,942.00	23,185.15	61,127.15	DE SOTO	3,928.04	3,552.04	7,480.04	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	HILLTOP	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
IMMANUEL	4,093.69	6,044.93	10,938.62	E. PLEASANT GROVE	240.00	250.00	490.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INDIAN SPRINGS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
ROSEDALE	12,100.00	9,035.72	21,135.72	ED PLEASANT GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
NEW HOPE	373.10	155.43	528.53	EDWARD	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
PARKWAY	24,790.72	46,933.64	71,724.36	ENTERPRISE	12,000.00	16,771.16	26,771.16	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
SODA SPRINGS HILLS	1,151.38	2,499.00	3,650.38	FBC QUITMAN	32,501.42	15,993.17	48,494.59	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
SPRINGFIELD	1,250.00	267.60	1,517.60	FAIRFIELD	3,074.36	1,502.15	5,576.50	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
STANTON	3,039.31	2,798.52	5,837.83	HARMONY	1,776.58	1,348.00	3,124.58	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
WASHINGTON	9,585.00	4,114.51	13,699.51	HEBREW RIDGE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
	115,823.07	83,990.53	199,813.60	KINGDOM VALLEY	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
ALCORN	1,648.28	1,830.89	3,499.17	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
RETHLEHEN	1,731.16	1,717.69	3,448.85	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
CALVARY	3,782.63	3,103.72	6,886.35	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
CORALINE	1,253.31	125.31	1,378.62	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
DAVIEH	1,020.00	1,020.00	2,040.00	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
EAST CORINTH	4,827.00	5,054.82	10,781.82	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
FBC CORINTH	4,011.10	17,957.75	20,871.85	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
GLENDALE	3,879.73	2,167.67	6,047.40	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
HOLLY	2,250.00	3,105.00	5,355.00	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
JACINTO	50.00	12.50	62.50	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
REED CHAPEL	1,020.00	1,020.00	2,040.00	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
KENDRICK	504.50	48.00	552.50	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
KOSKUSI FIRST	2,486.35	3,470.46	5,956.81	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
LIBERTY HILL	438.00	152.00	590.00	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
NORTH CORINTH	0.00	1,265.56	1,265.56	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	10,000.00
DAVIDSON	1,020.00	1,020.00	2,040.00	LAKE GROVE	1,920.00	2,100.00	3,200.00	1,920.00	3,411.81	2,060.58	5,472.39	INNIS	1,050.00	1,517.15	2,569.15	

Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

Jan. 1, 1990-June 30, 1990

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All		
Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total
PINEVIEW	4,329.15	1,271.15	5,700.30	GRACE CHAPEL	638.20	93.13	931.41	CALVARY	4,155.44	5,000.23	9,155.67
PROVIDENCE	6,530.00	6,475.58	13,005.58	GREENWOOD SPRINGS	455.17	62.92	518.09	COMO	4,255.99	4,999.70	9,255.60
RAWLS SPRINGS	16,973.39	7,595.25	26,568.64	GREGORY CHAPEL	371.65	502.22	873.87	COURTLAND	1,699.00	981.80	2,680.80
RIDGECREST	38.00	92.17	130.17	HAMILTON	2,978.45	1,448.50	4,426.95	CRENSHAW	3,680.70	2,199.00	5,879.70
SODA 8TH AVENUE	30.00	1,080.00	1,110.00	LELAND	1,120.20	1,000.00	2,120.20	END LAKE	1,120.53	1,000.82	2,121.35
SUNRISE	3,403.03	1,299.65	4,702.68	HEADWOOD	14,591.20	9,336.95	23,926.15	SHORE	1,120.53	1,000.82	2,121.35
TEMPLE HATTIESBURG	84,863.71	44,628.56	129,492.27	NEW HOPE	683.00	938.00	1,601.00	FBC BATESVILLE	25,352.99	12,130.10	37,383.09
TEMPEL PETAL	1,553.00	1,553.00	3,106.00	NEW PROSPECT	3,986.00	3,000.00	7,986.00	FBC SARDIS	14,024.97	16,812.60	30,837.57
THIRTY EIGHT AVENUE	1,282.39	7,010.00	8,292.39	RECKLESS	1,020.00	1,023.34	2,043.34	FIRST FAITH	1,120.53	1,000.82	2,121.35
TRINITY	1,670.70	457.67	2,128.37	SMITHVILLE	3,989.33	6,207.82	10,196.65	HEBRON	1,523.36	2,651.40	3,124.76
UNIVERSITY	12,610.65	6,700.69	19,316.74	SOUTH NETTLETON	475.64	1,103.84	1,579.48	IMMANUEL	3,253.54	896.00	4,149.54
LEE	366,074.51	276,177.39	642,051.90	SPLINTER	1,923.00	1,278.14	3,041.72	LOCKE STATION	529.71	566.00	1,095.71
AUBURN	9,253.67	5,889.00	15,133.17	TRINITY	970.00	1,687.33	2,617.33	MCIVOR	2,321.02	2,263.00	4,584.02
BEDFORD	6,111.06	1,198.49	7,310.05	VICTORY	716.05	286.62	1,002.47	50.00	50.00	50.00	
BIRMINGHAM	2,105.00	2,105.00	4,210.00		140,770.50	146,011.26	266,781.76	512.45	233.00	745.45	
BISELL	1,706.93	80.00	1,786.93					20.00	20.00	20.00	
BREWER	110,085.23	57,140.00	167,225.23	MONTGOMERY	231.00	443.00	674.00	PEACH CREEK	1,200.00	3,031.00	4,231.00
CAMP CREEK	5,003.41	2,159.89	7,223.21	BETHLEHEM	8,478.25	7,443.05	15,921.30	PHARASIA	1,945.86	784.00	2,730.86
CHESTERVILLE	3,703.15	854.98	4,558.13	BUCK HILL	10,196.93	5,715.09	15,912.02	PILGRIMS REST	1,227.26	205.93	1,333.19
DTY CHAPEL	4,400.00	1,456.62	5,856.62	ESKRIDGE	50.00	155.00	205.00	EMMANUEL	1,422.00	1,000.00	2,422.00
DTY. LION	2,888.74	1,518.75	4,407.49	FBC WINONA	51,131.83	35,465.00	86,596.83	CLIFTON	1,167.44	559.00	1,726.44
EAST HEIGHTS	2,553.91	7,277.61	9,831.52	KILMICHAEL	5,903.10	1,384.53	8,288.60	COOPERVILLE	1,167.44	559.00	1,726.44
ECUATURBIA	2,173.11	32.00	2,501.11	MILLIGAN SPRINGS	90.00	170.00	260.00	SHADY GROVE	85.97	73.00	1,570.97
ECUADOR	16,149.58	11,454.58	27,504.16	MISSION	18,053.00	1,300.30	19,353.30	TOCUMA	1,111.73	260.30	1,372.03
FBC GUNNISON	1,057.48	67.73	1,125.21	NEW HONNA	18,053.00	12,000.11	30,710.36	UNION	76,450.23	59,884.84	135,935.07
FBC NETTLETON	9,841.79	5,005.71	14,847.50	POPLAR CREEK NATIONS	635.89	655.72	1,291.61	PEARL RIVER			
FBC PLANTERSVILLE	15,170.70	3,806.30	18,976.00	POPLAR SPRINGS	756.00	1,223.95	1,980.95	BETHEL	3,926.92	3,944.15	7,861.07
FBC TUPELO	7,417.50	1,259.50	8,677.00	POKE	3,320.00	4,000.00	7,320.00	CENTRAL	3,372.62	2,318.59	5,691.21
FRC VERDONA	15,090.72	12,612.91	27,703.63	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	CRANE CREEK	2,229.63	1,149.90	3,174.53
GRANITE	25.00	25.00	50.00	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	DERBY	376.00	561.85	937.85
HARRISBURG	1,004.65	42,184.76	43,189.41	POKE	645.57	1,730.00	2,375.57	EMMANUEL	2,262.68	226.00	2,489.68
LEE ASSOC	25.00	25.00	50.00	POKE	93.00	32.00	188.16	LIBERTY	2,336.77	1,224.74	3,561.52
LIMESTONE	3,490.00	1,200.00	4,690.00	POKE	150.00	304.00	454.00	LODOW	1,463.00	1,043.00	2,506.00
MACON	2,400.00	1,548.38	3,948.38	POKE	102,205.83	74,895.39	177,101.22	FBC OZONA	4,176.01	35,983.07	80,159.00
MT VERNON	7,013.23	8,450.00	15,463.23	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	FBC PICAUVILLE	2,416.00	1,284.00	3,698.00
OLD UNION	2,959.95	2,459.85	5,419.80	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	FBC PLANTERSVILLE	1,407.25	1,133.65	2,540.93
PALMETTO	368.34	304.50	672.84	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	FORDS CREEK	9,401.60	3,410.84	12,812.44
PARKWAY	12,452.96	10,784.90	23,237.92	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	GOODY HOPE	3,288.13	320.00	3,608.13
PEACEVILLE	2,746.84	1,119.75	3,926.62	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	GRACE MEMORIAL	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
REED	2,400.00	1,548.38	3,948.38	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	GRACE SPRINGS	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
SHERMAN	5,935.72	4,226.84	10,364.56	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HARMONY	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
SKYLINE TUPELO	150.00	150.00	300.00	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
SOUTHERN HEIGHTS	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
TEMPER	4,494.00	244.50	4,738.50	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
UNION CHAPEL	1,116.40	11,369.80	12,486.20	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
W JACKSON STREET	306.58	3,144.54	3,451.12	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
WILLOWOOD	446,043.19	294,379.79	735,532.98	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
LEFLORE	5,934.75	3,396.37	9,331.12	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
CHRIST	3,311.02	2,365.38	5,676.40	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
FBC GREENWOOD	23,241.00	38,396.25	61,637.29	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
FBC ITTA BENA	7,606.13	12,005.75	19,611.89	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
FBC MINTER CITY	295.00	295.00	590.00	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
MORGAN CITY	2,667.42	2,047.40	4,714.82	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
MT VERNON	16,154.00	14,770.00	30,924.00	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
NORTH GREENWOOD	6,677.32	771.00	1,048.32	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
PARKLAWSON	1,050.00	1,393.00	2,443.00	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
SIDON	60,014.99	40,321.05	149,336.49	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
LINCOLN	1,979.18	2,306.69	4,285.87	POKE	1,000.00	150.00	150.00	HILL CREEK	1,164.50	1,040.00	2,204.50
ARLINGTON	2,09										

Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

Jan. 1, 1990-June 30, 1990

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated WMU & All			
Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	
SHADY GROVE	122.75	136.00	259.75	KNOX	1.544.86	3,292.90	4,836.76	STRENGTHFORD	1,000.00	299.46	1,299.46	MICHIGAN	942.40	1,731.00	2,673.40
SMART CREEK	616.11	940.53	1,756.64	LEXIE	4,271.06	3,455.27	8,116.36	TRINITY	2,850.97	3,144.40	6,075.37	HOLLY BLUFF	1,967.53	1,161.00	3,128.53
CROSSROADS	615.00	70.00	685.00	MELLEES CREEK	2,426.00	3,000.00	5,426.00	WESLEY	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	MELROSE	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
SOUTHWOOD	1,196.00	1,000.00	2,196.00	NEZ ZION	1,393.23	2,716.97	6,110.20	WEST SHADY GROVE	2,429.12	3,175.68	6,004.80	DAIRY GROVE	2,114.00	1,360.00	3,474.00
TISHOMINGO	6,423.69	6,671.43	13,095.12	SALEM	4,000.00	2,073.29	6,073.29	ZION REST	776.71	40.00	816.71	PEACE GROVE	1,740.00	3,300.00	5,040.00
UNITY	381.00	180.00	481.00	THE FORTOWN	3,898.00	1,369.65	5,257.65	UNION	1,274.86	1,395.55	3,670.41	SHORT CREEK	311.73	250.00	531.73
YELLOW CREEK	1,000.00	1,300.00	2,300.00	WINTON	2,683.11	1,655.00	4,538.11	WINTON	91,437.93	72,395.55	163,833.16	SOUTHLAND	207.00	200.00	407.00
UNION	35,054.00	49,519.62	84,578.50	WOODLAWN	57,425.92	51,180.00	108,606.00	WINTON	775.00	1,020.00	1,795.00	TINSLEY	4,004.93	472.00	4,476.93
BEECH GROVE	464.00	1,441.60	1,906.20	WINTON	1,710.98	1,627.50	3,338.54	WINTON	1,710.98	1,396.80	3,301.78	WEBSTER	141,417.80	58,234.92	199,652.72
BETHESDA	75.00	195.00	270.00	WOODLAWN	3,486.00	1,000.00	4,486.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILDFIRE SPRINGS	182.00	192.00	374.00
ELMWOOD	1,170.00	500.00	1,670.00	WINTON	3,486.00	1,000.00	4,486.00	WINTON	961.00	1,574.22	2,535.22	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
FAYETTE	2,119.00	1,385.81	3,705.81	WINTON	5,915.48	4,004.15	9,919.63	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
FBC UNION CHURCH	1,879.32	3,529.79	5,409.11	WINTON	51,867.00	54,191.00	105,058.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
FRUITLAND	5,200.00	5,200.00	10,400.00	WINTON	2,091.10	1,212.36	3,303.46	WINTON	2,970.43	2,870.00	5,840.43	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
HERMANVILLE	701.08	420.00	1,121.08	WINTON	20,186.54	10,154.44	31,101.98	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
PATTON	249.99	249.98	499.97	WINTON	10,400.00	1,000.00	11,400.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
PORTER HILL	537.00	700.00	1,237.00	WINTON	2,283.00	1,110.00	3,401.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
PORT GIBSON	4,077.44	4,259.22	8,336.66	WINTON	15,650.00	6,777.00	21,327.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
RED LICK	75.00	175.00	250.00	WINTON	4,351.00	2,155.45	6,506.45	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
SHILOH	1,917.00	1,300.00	3,217.00	WINTON	2,283.00	1,110.00	3,401.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
UNITY	2,146.00	1,300.00	3,446.00	WINTON	217,228.00	110,319.95	327,619.21	WINTON	11,917.50	5,045.42	17,502.52	WINTON	200.00	792.00	992.00
UNION COUNTY	2,013.11	4,410.70	6,423.85	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
AMAZIAH	397.38	112.00	509.38	WINTON	2,335.11	3,772.83	6,107.94	WINTON	2,600.00	3,299.84	5,899.84	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
BEECH SPRINGS	2,400.00	2,400.00	4,800.00	WINTON	626.70	651.92	1,278.62	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
BEULAH	1,452.00	2,957.00	4,419.00	WINTON	0.00	500.00	500.00	WINTON	5,534.00	4,362.95	9,896.95	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
BLUE SPRINGS	1,664.68	488.54	2,153.22	WINTON	13,204.00	10,777.68	24,010.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
CORNERSVILLE	1,518.34	1,040.19	2,558.53	WINTON	0.00	341.75	341.75	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
ELLISTON	7,449.51	6,350.00	13,800.51	WINTON	622.44	180.00	802.44	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
FREDONIA	2,000.00	4,527.50	6,527.50	WINTON	12,100.00	5,000.00	17,500.00	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
GLENFIELD	1,370.71	1,183.42	2,543.13	WINTON	651.53	80,903.22	146,470.75	WINTON	1,714.98	3,643.63	5,358.61	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
HILL CREST	6,171.00	3,210.00	9,381.00	WINTON	640.70	1,044.55	1,685.33	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
TNGOMAR	6,170.17	13,058.60	21,238.77	WINTON	1,918.51	2,296.33	4,215.14	WINTON	5,210.00	1,959.00	7,169.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
JERICHO	5,107.08	4,070.99	9,178.07	WINTON	1,512.17	2,774.82	4,308.99	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
LEAVELLE	900.00	1,744.00	2,644.00	WINTON	15,424.41	12,522.41	27,974.82	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
LIBERTY	2,250.00	250.00	2,500.00	WINTON	1,778.41	3,750.41	5,528.82	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20	1,977.00	3,547.20
LOCUST GROVE	5,000.00	6,993.00	12,993.00	WINTON	1,778.41	3,750.41	5,528.82	WINTON	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WILLOW SPRINGS	1,570.20</		

East Fork pastor retires

Maurice Wicker, pastor of East Fork Church, Amite County, for 11 years, has announced his retirement, effective July 31. Preaching for 41 years, he was licensed by Calvary of Smithdale in 1949 while attending SMJC, Summit.



Later he attended Clarke College. In 1952 he was graduated from Grand Canyon College (now Grand Canyon Baptist University) Phoenix, Ariz. After a pastorate in Nevada, he enrolled in Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., where he received the master of divinity degree in 1956.

In 1950, he married Martha Lett of Mobile. They have a daughter, Jenny Faye Wicker, two sons and two daughters-in-law, Gerald and Mary Wicker, Troy and Beth Wicker, all of Smithdale, and three grandchildren (Laura, Ben, and Tim). His wife, Martha, is an elementary teacher in the Amite County school system.

Picacho Church of Arizona, his first pastorate, ordained him in 1951. Other pastorates have included First Church, Boulder City, Nev.; First

Southern Church, South San Francisco, Calif.; Mt. Vernon Church, Amite County; Tangipahoa Church; Pleasant Grove Church, Laurel; Leesburg Church, Morton; and Haven Woods Church, Mobile, Ala.

Wicker served as moderator in his local associations in Arizona, California, and Mississippi, as well as in many other denominational posts, including for the past five years being a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He and Mrs. Wicker will occupy their home in the Calvary Church community on Smithdale Road where he grew up as the ninth of 11 children of Mrs. Dottie Wicker and the late W. A. Wicker of Smithdale. He will be available for pulpit supply, interim pastorates, and other engagements.

Reception will honor Wickers

East Fork Church will hold a reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Maurice F. Wicker upon his retirement from the full-time ministry, Sunday, July 29, from 2 until 4 o'clock p.m. at the East Fork Picnic Shed.

Pastoral care seminar set

A seminar has been designed to give "an overview of the care-giving task God has given his churches."

This seminar will be taught on Sept. 11 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

A part of the Key Leader series, the seminar is entitled "Helping People Through Pastoral Care." It is for pastors, staff members, deacons, and directors of missions and is designed to increase care-giving skills of those in pastoral ministry.

James Hightower, a consultant in the pastoral leadership section of the

Baptist Sunday School Board, will be seminar leader.

Topics include "Caregivers caring for themselves," "The power of listening," and "Preaching caring sermons."

The seminar costs \$10 per person and covers lunch, a book, and other materials.

To register, write Julius Thompson, director, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 with a check for \$10 prior to Sept. 4.

Devotional

Planted together with Christ

By David L. Sellers

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection (Romans 6:5).

Did you know that oranges actually come from lemon trees? That's right, or at least they did when I was growing up in the citrus belt of central Florida. Here is the reason.

Lemon trees are used as root stock for orange trees. They have a better root system than orange trees. Therefore, when a lemon tree gets about three feet tall, you cut an inverted "T" in the outer bark of the trunk. You then peel up the bottom of outer bark and slide an orange bud under it. This is called grafting.

In time, the orange bud takes root and becomes an orange tree. From the bud down, the tree remains a lemon tree. From the bud up, it develops into an orange tree. With nutrients and water, the tree grows. As it grows, the tree becomes less visible as a lemon tree and more visible as an orange tree. In time, the tree will produce oranges rather than lemons.

This is what happens when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The bud of Christ is implanted in us and he takes over. The verb, "planted together," means "to grow up together with." It speaks of a living, vital union of two individuals growing up together. The idea is that we are growing up in Christ.

Just as the lemon tree diminishes and the orange tree increases, we begin to die to self and Christ becomes a greater part of our life. Just as the bud instantly takes root and gradually grows, Christ instantly brings salvation and gradually grows in us.

Where we once were self-centered in ourselves, Christ begins to grow in us where we will become "in the likeness of his resurrection." As we take in spiritual nutrition of prayer, Bible knowledge, and service, we begin to bear the fruits of the character of Christ.

Paul's prayer for the church at Colossae was that they "may stand perfect (mature) and complete in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12). Christian maturity can only increase as we continue to let our lives be implanted with the life of Jesus Christ.

Sellers is pastor, First Church, Collinsville.



Sellers

Just for the Record

The youth choir of Salem Church, Collins, will present the musical drama, "Celebrate Life!" by Ragan Courtney and Burly Red in two performances. The first performance will be at their church on July 22, at 6:45 p.m. The second performance will be at Salem Springs Church, Murfreesboro, Tenn. on Aug. 5.

The musical director is Gwen Keys Hitt and the dramatic director is Ronald Bishop. Sound technician is Henry Rogers. Paul Keys is constructing stage props.

The performers are Brandi Boone, Buddy Boone, Dusty Bryant, Angel Gibson, Carter Hitt, Kyle Jones, Shannon Mathis, Tara McBeth, Melinda Pritchett, Sherry Pritchett, Paul Rogers, Mark Springfield, Matt Springfield, Kevin Strebeck, Pam Turner, and Stacy Turner. Performing at the Collins performance only will be Shannon Bryant, William Fulton, Caroline McQueen, and Ronda Ross.

Accompanying the group to Tennessee will be Mrs. Hitt, Bishop and Mrs. Jerry Jones. While in Murfreesboro for one week, the group will also direct Bible studies, conduct community surveys, and present community concerts in malls and shopping centers.

Anding Church (Yazoo) will host a concert by the Magnolia Quartet; Saturday, July 21, 7 p.m.; no admission, but a love offering will be taken; Joe Hill, pastor.

First Church, Crystal Springs, will have open house on July 22 for its renovated sanctuary. Special services will be held during morning services at 11 a.m. A reception will be held in fellowship hall from 2-4 p.m. The building committee members are Larry Papizan, Winfred Hammack, James Conn, Terry Marler, Eldon Pitts, Curtis Lee, Ragan Walters, Mrs. Mathis Holt, Mrs. Joel Haire, Miss Mary Dell McCoy, and Mrs. Wayne McDonald. Contractors were Custom Church Interiors, Inc. of Brandon. Joel E. Haire is pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church (Lincoln) will have Lay Renewal Weekend, July 20-22. Mahlon Thomas of Long Beach is coordinator. Floyd F. Higginbotham is pastor.



Jones County Junior College BSU student Amy Cameron (seated, center) leads a Bible study for older girls during a recent SPOT Mission Trip in Houston.

For the last five summers, Jones County Junior College BSU has gone to Houston, Texas on a SPOT Mission Trip for a week to work with home missionary Mildred McWhorter.

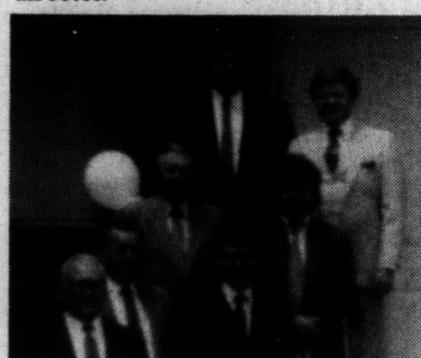
The work in Houston is with Spanish speaking people in three centers. JCJC's BSU works with hundreds of adults and children. Much physical work is done. The students cook their own meals and sleep on the gym floor. Fifteen students went this year including John Sumner, director and Frank Porter, assistant director from Jones.

After the drama presentation in one service, two adults were saved. In another program in a Mexican church, three boys rededicated their lives to Christ.

Vacation Bible School was held at Good Hope Church, Leake County, June 25-29, with an enrollment of 51. Commencement was held June 30 and a fellowship followed.

Corinth Church, Heidelberg, held Vacation Bible School, June 25-29, with an enrollment of 150 and average attendance of 137. David McKee was director. James K. Taylor is pastor.

"Super Sitters," a baby sitting class, will be offered at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center on Saturday, July 28, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Busey Auditorium. The class, for boys and girls ages 10-15 years, costs \$10.00 which includes lunch. To register or receive more information, contact Dene Bass, RN, by calling 968-1000.



Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch (Northwest) recently dedicated the addition of a new youth building. Pictured are members of the expansion committee, V. E. "Doc" Haines, chairman; E. J. Tidwell; L. C. Vance; Ben Goff; Tripp Wells; Ed Callahan, youth pastor; and J. Steven Delony, pastor.

Mike and Faye Speck, Owasso, Okla., will be in concert at Van Winkle Church, 4240 Carver Circle, Sunday, July 22, for the 11 a.m. worship service; the Specks will have conducted a crusade at NW Rankin School July 15-21; Ferrell Cork, pastor.



FBC Lucedale GAs pictured left to right, first row: Summer Davis and Cassie Dixon; second row: Bethany Barnhill, Jennifer Williams, Amy Johnson, Roseann Harvey, Edie McEachern; third row: Kristen Smith, Sarah Johnson, Selina Bullock; fourth row: Ragan McIntosh, Alesha Hempstead.

First Church, Lucedale, held a Girls in Action Recognition Service, May 20. The theme was IN HIS NAME — REACH, TEACH, TOUCH.

The G.A.'s entered the sanctuary with the music "Reach Out and Touch" being played. Mrs. Donna Bragg sang "Reach Out and Touch." After a theme introduction by Dolores

Walker, the G.A.'s sang "Girls in Action." Grades one and two shared Mission Adventure work using IN HIS NAME-REACH. Grades three and four shared Mission Adventure work using IN HIS NAME-TEACH. Grades five and six shared Mission Adventure work using IN HIS NAME-TOUCH. The following G.A.'s received a Mission Adventure charm: Robin Platt,

Jeana Conner, Mandi McEachern, Alison O'Neal, and Sarah Fryfogel. Mrs. Dolores Walker is G.A. Director. Leaders are: Peggy Curd, Stacey Hempstead, Julie Rouse, Carol Williams, Dianne DeVaughan, Tammy Caldwell, Dana Parker, DeWanda Platt, Linda Holland, and Nola Gilmore.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

“As Christians, we must live holy lives

By Jim Smith

1 Peter 1:13-25. 2 Peter 1:1-11

What does the word holy mean to you? The definition that I like best states that it is the distinctive mark and signature of the divine, the essential nature of the sacred.



Smith

It is easy for us to recognize, accept, and acknowledge that God is holy. Why? First, because the Bible tells us that God is holy. Second, by personal experience the Christian knows that God is what he says he is. It is man's nature to look up to and worship only that which we revere, and we only revere that which we feel we can never become.

But, when it comes to considering ourselves to be holy, much less making a public declaration to that effect, we are unable to think of ourselves in that light. Why? Because we realize that "... all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23, and we know what our sins are.

Nevertheless, God through his Word, the Bible, calls on us to be holy. Peter tells us that we are saved by God and should be like him. We are to live holy lives. When we become Chris-

LIFE AND WORK

tians we are not saved to continue to live as we will but as God wills. He challenges us to prepare our minds for the task. We are to gird them up as a man of Peter's day would gather up the hem of his tunic or cloak and tuck it into his belt in preparation to perform hard labor. We are to follow the example of Jesus and not seek after the "easy" ways of the world.

As Christians, we must be holy in all that we do, in all that we say, and in all that we think. Once we call upon God for salvation, once we make that commitment to him, we are his. He has redeemed us (paid the price for us) and the price was not paid in gold, silver, or material possessions; but it was paid in the blood of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

But what did he redeem us from? Certainly from bondage to our sins but also from the condemnation of the law and the useless traditions passed from father to son by the Jewish people. Those vain traditions tell us we cannot be holy because we are under the law. Christ gave meaning and purpose to life, as well as providing the means of salvation. So, being born again, not of a corruptible nature, but to an incorruptible nature by the grace of God we

should strive to live as God directs us in 1 Peter 1:16 "... Be ye holy; for I am holy" (KJV).

But how does an unholy, sinful person go about living a holy life? We do not do it by our own righteousness or ability, but Peter tells us that God has given us all we need in, by, and through our knowledge of him. Because of the great promises he has made us and through the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, which is the downpayment on those promises, we can be partakers of his divine nature. So we see that God gives us the ability to be holy as he is holy. We must practice being what we have already become in the sight of God through Jesus Christ.

Further, we must walk by faith (beyond our saving faith) and must trust in him for the things we cannot know or put our hands on. Peter admonishes us to add the quality of excellence to our faith (the excellence of man is to do the will of God and become more Christ-like). This likeness is acquired only by personal and continuous contact with Christ. Then we are to add knowledge — knowledge of God and his will and his ways. To knowledge we should add self control. We must learn to deny ourselves and control our lusts and passions so God's higher qualities may be manifested in us. From self control comes endurance. True faith endures to the end. It springs from a true knowledge of God, learned by experience with

him. We come to know that he is faithful in all he promises, even though his timetable is not the same as ours.

To endurance we are to add godliness (reverence). We must have an awareness of God in every aspect of life, not just on the mountaintops and down in the valleys, but at all points along our roads of daily toil as well. To godliness, add brotherly kindness, for Jesus told the disciples that others would know his disciples because they loved one another. This means we are to bear one another's burdens. We are to accept a Christian brother for what he is in Christ and where he is in Christ. Then we are to help each other become all we can be in Christ. The final step is love, the godly love of *agape*. It is invoked not by what we are but because of what God is. It is a sacrificial love that thinks of good to others and not of the cost to self. The world will never believe that God is a God of love unless they see his love in our lives as Christians.

These Christ-like qualities are in us because his Holy Spirit indwells us as Christians. We must allow them to increase to the point of controlling our every action, then we will be fruitful in our Christian lives. We must always seek to attain his highest calling for us that he may be glorified by all we do. We must live holy lives for his glory, not ours.

Smith is pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian.

Proverbs in pictures present lessons — simple, profound

By Bob Rogers
Proverbs 30:18-33

Look outside your window. What do you see? Is there a lesson to be learned from what you see? Jesus would say "yes." Looking around at everyday scenes and events, he told stories so simple and so profound that they have never been forgotten. A sower planting his seed, a wedding feast, and a wayward son were all used to teach us God's truth. Our last lesson from Proverbs contains pictures from life which can make us wise.



Rogers

Not all of the book of Proverbs was written or even collected by Solomon. Proverbs 25:1 says Hezekiah's men collected some of them, and 31:1 credits the mother of "King Lemuel" with the authorship of that section. This Sunday's

UNIFORM

lesson, Proverbs 30:18-33, was possibly a part of the "words of Agur" (30:1). Each of the sayings in this lesson is so vivid that it can be drawn on a canvas.

1) An unconcerned adulteress (vs. 20)

Verse 20 imagines "an adulterous woman" who eats and wipes her mouth, saying she has done no wrong. Marvin E. Tate, Jr. says, "She treats her sexual intercourse as casual as eating a meal." She is totally unconcerned about her sin.

2) Four unbearable people (vss. 21-23)

Verses 21-23 picture four people with whom it is difficult to live: a slave who becomes king, a fool filled with food, "an odious woman when she is married," and a maid who replaces her mistress. The "odious woman" is literally a hated woman. This could be a woman who is unloved by her husband yet remains in the mar-

riage, or it could be a divorcee; but it most likely refers to an unpopular or unattractive woman who gets a husband. All four of the types of people mentioned here tend to be unbearable and even obnoxious.

3) Four creatures who model wisdom (vss. 24-28)

The writer paints a scene from the animal world to teach wisdom to humans in verses 24-28. All of them are small, but they are able to do great things. The ant plans ahead to have food in the summer. The coney (the hyrax, a small mammal with a thick body and short legs and ears) knows how to make a safe home in the rocks and caves around the Dead Sea. The locust is well-organized, though he has no king to lead. The Hebrew word for the fourth creature was identified by Martin Luther as a spider, but most translators today agree that the word means a lizard. The point of verse 28 is that you can catch a lizard in your hand, yet lizards appear even in king's palaces.

4) A fool stirring up anger (vss. 32-33)

Verses 32-33 draw an image of what happens when a fool starts a fight. The writer warns, "Lay thine hand upon thy mouth." In other words, put your hand over your mouth before your boasting or unkind words get you into trouble. For just as "churning of milk" (which was done by twisting an animal-skin bottle of milk) produces butter, and twisting someone's nose makes it bleed, so angry words provoke a fight. Questions to consider:

1. Are there any sins that don't bother you?
2. What behavior do you find obnoxious? Do you ever behave that way?
3. Even if you are not famous or wealthy, what great things can God do through you and your church?

4. Have you said any words that provoked another person to anger? Has someone said such words to you? Have you gone to that person for forgiveness and reconciliation?

Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

Samuel's birth and ministry: lesson in commitment

By Lannie Wilbourn

1 Samuel 1:11, 20, 24-28; 3:8-10, 19-20

As gasoline is the fuel that keeps the car engine running, commitment is the fuel that keeps the Christian serving Jesus. The first three chapters of 1 Samuel repeatedly refer to "vows" or commitments made and kept. Victor Alfsen said, "God can do wonders with a broken heart if you give him all the pieces." Hannah certainly proved this to be true. Her commitment in 1:11 is often used on Mother's Day to remind mothers of their spiritual privilege. Hannah brought her troubles to the Lord with many tears. She made her commitment to God and her husband supported it. Hannah's promise that their son would not have his hair cut nor drink wine or strong drink corresponds closely to the descriptions of Nazirites elsewhere in the Old Testament. The mother of Samson was not to drink alcohol even during her pregnancy; and Samson, who was to be a life-long Nazirite, was to let his hair grow. In the case of Samson as in Amos 2:11, one became a Nazirite at God's initiative and remained in this status for one's entire life. Hannah consecrated her expected son to the service

BIBLE BOOK

of God. But Samuel's Nazirite status resulted neither from his personal vow, as in Num. 6, nor from God's consecration of someone to himself as in Amos 2:11 and the Samson story.

Rather, Samuel was a Nazirite because his mother promised he would be one. His mother indicated his vocation prenatally. What she promised was to live a godly life. She calls herself "servant" (1:11, 16, 18 NIV). Upon finishing her praying, "her face was no longer downcast." She believed God would answer and she did not forget when he did.

Hannah's vow to give her child to God can teach us that children are a trust from God to be dedicated to him. The New Testament continues a strong emphasis on the value of spiritual leadership in our families. Paul tells Timothy to select deacons who are proven by their leadership of their families. We must take seriously Paul's instructions in 1 Timothy 3. The church is the family of God. The sacrifice that Hannah took with her to the house of the Lord demonstrates the faithfulness we should show in our worship of God. A three-year-old bull was apparently a quite valuable one. Hannah's fulfillment of her vow shows us the value and necessity of being faithful to our word.

Mothers in ancient times might nurse their children as long as three years. Therefore, Samuel was a preschooler learning by seeing, hearing, and doing in his training with Eli. Notice that he "... slept in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was." (3:3 NIV). God's personal call to Samuel came when "the word of the Lord was rare." The "word of the Lord" is the technical designation for the revelation given to the prophets. This revelatory word was rare or precious (cf. Isa. 13:12). The absence of a prophetic word is a curse announced against Israel by Amos (8:12). Samuel was specially blessed by being given such a prophetic word.

On God's third call (3:8) Eli realized what was happening and gave Samuel a proper liturgical response that he could make if God called again. This response expressed proper respect and humility for one to whom God was speaking (your servant) and a willingness to listen. The threefold call functioned as a prelude to the divine message by insuring that Samuel was awake and ready to listen. Sometimes God must speak several times to us to insure we listen attentively.

Samuel was the man of promise for God was with him. The assurance of his presence was an empowering word, present also in the calls of Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah and others. That God did not let any of his promises to Samuel

fail or fall to the ground was typical of his message throughout the Old Testament (Josh. 21:45; 23:24; 1 Kings 8:56; 2 Kings 10:10). All Israel recognized that Samuel had now been confirmed as a prophet. The all-inclusiveness of the recognition was emphasized by the note that it involved everyone from Dan to Beersheba, the traditional limits of the promised land. Hannah's prenatal commitment to God resulted in a prophet for Israel. God's answer to a mother's prayer provided direction for a nation.

Wilbourn is pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon.



Wilbourn

Lord with many tears. She made her commitment to God and her husband supported it. Hannah's promise that their son would not have his hair cut nor drink wine or strong drink corresponds closely to the descriptions of Nazirites elsewhere in the Old Testament. The mother of Samson was not to drink alcohol even during her pregnancy; and Samson, who was to be a life-long Nazirite, was to let his hair grow. In the case of Samson as in Amos 2:11, one became a Nazirite at God's initiative and remained in this status for one's entire life. Hannah consecrated her expected son to the service

Off the Record

A first-grader's mother put a bowl of hot soup in front of him. He halted his first spoonful in midair and examined it with a frown.

"What's the matter?" his mother asked.

"Alphabet soup," he snorted. "Gee whiz, Mom, can't you let a guy forget school for a minute?"

CHILDREN'S PAGE

MKs do home study

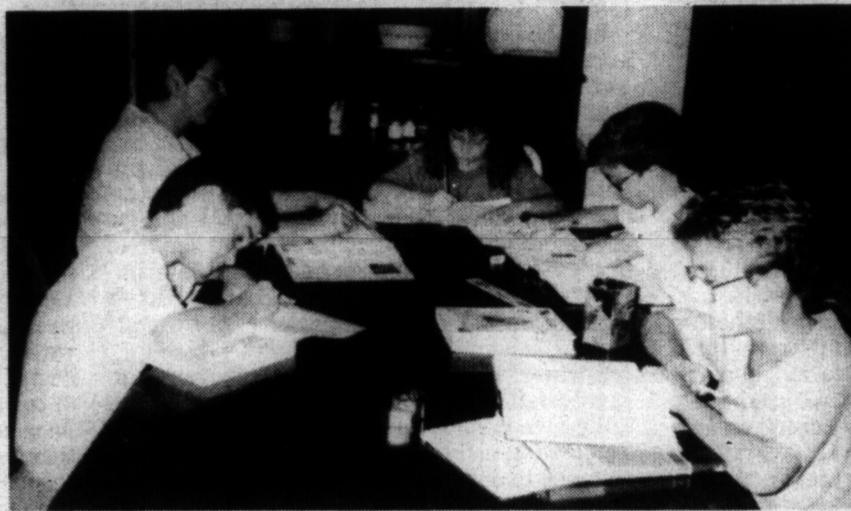
By Maxine Stewart

MKs (missionary kids) on the mission field often do home study. Lynn (Mrs. Jack) Kinnison has four students who study around her dining table five days a week, her son Christopher, Sam Anderson, and Jonathan and Rachel Newton.

Rachel is in the second grade, Christopher and Jonathan are in the fifth grade, and Sam is in the sixth grade, so Lynn has a variety of lesson plans to make. Since he lived up-country for several years, Christopher is enjoying having others study with him in Bangkok, Thailand.

"We have fun," said Lynn. "It is kind of a self-learning program. Having the group study together makes studying more fun for all of them. This is my first experience in teaching home study for students other than my own four children."

The students praise their teacher. They do not hesitate to say what a good teacher she is and that they enjoy home study. They all agree that it



Missionary Lynn (Mrs. Jack) Kinnison teaches home study to four MKs (missionary kids) around her dining table. Clockwise: Christopher Kinnison, Mrs. Kinnison, Rachel Newton, Sam Anderson, and Jonathan Newton. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

is more fun to study with other students. Rachel, of course, wishes the student body had more than one girl. Christopher, meanwhile, is delighted

that the student body has increased by 300%.

Maxine Stewart is a missionary in Thailand.

12 receive Christ at Thai camp

The seventh Thai Junior Camp was held at the Christian Conference Center (Baptist camp) in Pattaya, Thailand, April 1990. Nine Baptist churches participated, with 53 Juniors attending. Of this total, 12 Juniors were public professing Christians when they went to camp. Five other campers had made professions of faith before, but never publicly. In his invitation Samak Kambang emphasized the importance of a public profession of faith. During the invitation 38 Juniors stepped forward indicating they wanted to accept Christ

as their Saviour.

The pastors and Sunday School teachers of these children received the names, addresses and a copy of each decision made.

The counselors are trained by Joy (Mrs. Bob) Cullen, Junior camp director, or the counselors take her course in the Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary which qualifies them. This year, however, four former campers were invited to be counselors-in-training, a new experience for all. In the testimony

period during the final service, two of the young men told how they had become Christians during the first camp seven years ago and how they continued going to camp every year.

One of the young women counselors-in-training told how she was afraid to accept Jesus during the first camp because of what her parents might say. Then she told how she went back the second year and accepted Jesus.

Mrs. Cullen wrote the five books used in Junior camp.

Blue Mountain BSU team discipiles youths in Colorado

By Donna Smith

A 12-member team from Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union spent May 15-22 on a mission trip to Denver, Colo. Evidence of the power of God through prayer manifested itself through the loving and receptive hearts of the youths and adults at Northglenn, First Baptist Church. Also, members of the BSU team saw God's power evident through the growth and love touching their own lives.

In Northglenn on Wednesday, the team participated in the evening prayer service through music and testimony.

The following day, the group visited two nursing homes. As they met a 1940's movie star, Sally Yarnell, in one of the homes, each member of the team seemed overwhelmed with the fact that youth and beauty are fleeting, no matter who you are or what you do.

That evening, the BSU group participated in a telephone survey, each calling 100 numbers. The students asked people if they had a local church home. Over 70 prospects were found for the church. The pastor, John Talbert, expressed his gratefulness for the team's work.

Friday evening, Disciple Youth Weekend began. About 10 youths attended the first evening. Since the "team" had divided itself into three units to present the material more ef-

fectively, each group only had a few youths. Saturday morning began with visitation which resulted in another young man's attending the seminars. Several other youths joined the group on Saturday as well. The highlight of the day was a creative worship service which the BSU team led. The youths as well as the BSU group were challenged by the Spirit of God who was present.

Saturday, also, included a trip to the mall where the three groups competed in a "sound" scavenger hunt. The BMC students had the opportunity to get to know the youths on a different level from that of student/teacher. The scavenger hunt ended with supper at a nearby restaurant.

Sunday, nine of the youths made decisions to be more committed to God. In the evening service, the pastor and the church members took time to set apart the youths and BSU group by laying hands on them and praying for them. As the team prepared to leave, tears were seen on faces throughout the auditorium. God's love drew the team and church together in a short time, as only his love can do.

One member of the BSU team, Steve Walter, has returned to Northglenn to serve as youth director for the summer.

Donna Smith was a senior team member.

Churches reminded of price increases

NASHVILLE — Increases in the cost of paper and printing for church literature produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and improvements in Sunday School materials will result in two price increases during the 1990-91 budget year.

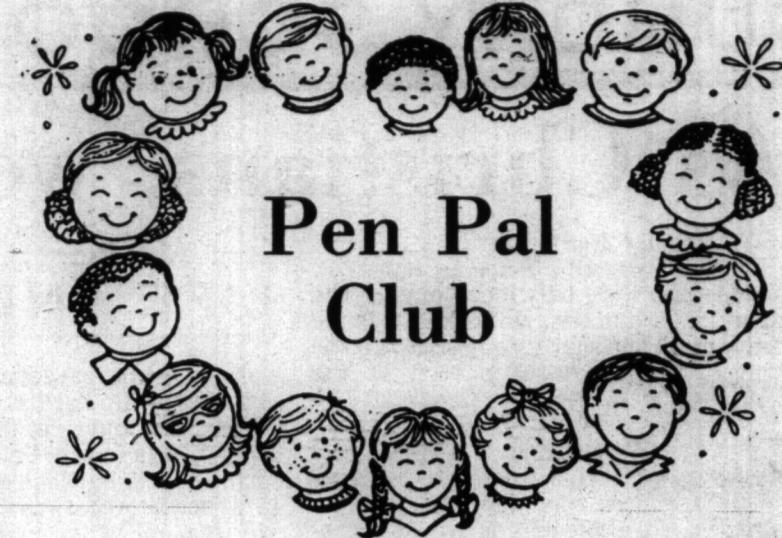
Fred Phanco, director of the Sunday School Board's marketing division, said even though the price increases were reported in conjunction with trustee approval earlier this year, information is being released now to remind church budget committees of the upcoming changes as budgets are set for the new church year.

In February 1990, Sunday School Board trustees approved an increase for April 1991 of 5.8 percent to cover the higher cost of paper and printing. An additional increase also was approved for October 1991 of 4.4 percent to cover the improvements. It is estimated that the average price increase for local churches will be 7 to 7.5 percent for the 1991 calendar year.

In October 1991 improvements will be introduced in Sunday School materials which include increased pages for Bible content, art and teaching procedures. Also, more color will be included in the periodicals.

Phanco said even after the two increases, the cost of Sunday School Board literature will remain 25 percent lower than the nearest major competitor.

A small pot boils quickly.



Pen Pal Club

for a pen pal, please write me and I will answer all your letters.

Dana Oswalt
Rt. 2, Box 193
Mathiston, MS 39752

Hi!

My name is Bethany and I'm 14 and in the ninth grade. I go to the Sunflower Church.

I would love to get more letters. Shelley F. from Waynesboro, please send me your address. I want to send you your stuff.

I want to see your letters in my box (don't forget). Send them to this address:

Bethany Allred
Rt. 1, Box 50
Sunflower, MS 38778

Hi! My name is Dana Oswalt. I am 9 years old. I am in the fifth grade. I go to Blythe Creek Baptist Church in Mathiston, Mississippi. My hobbies include playing the piano, riding bikes, skating, and swimming. If you think that you would enjoy having me

Stephanie Bigham
P. O. Box 266
Ecru, MS 38841



Pictured above are participants in Short Creek Church's "Children's Church" (Tishomingo). Seated is Keith Byram, director of the program. Front row: Jessie Hamn, Stevie Worsham, Jamie Casebella, Misti Booras, Dredre Cooksie, Chad Fooshee, Samantha Floyd, and Anna Bonds. Back: Chris Stevens, Jenifer Hale, Shane Casebella, Amy Hamn, Jarrad Robinson, Kay-Dee Floyd, and Roy Bales, Jr. Not pictured is Melody Byram, director. Leonard Casebella is pastor at Short Creek Church.

Rap album ruled obscene

MIAMI, Fla. (EP) — The album "As Nasty As They Wanna Be" by the rap group, 2 Live Crew, has been declared obscene by a Federal judge. Citing the album's graphic sexual lyrics, Judge Jose Gonzalez agreed with the Broward County Sheriff's Department that "As Nasty As They Wanna Be" violated contemporary community standards for obscenity.

"It is an appeal to 'dirty' thoughts and the loins, not to the intellect and the mind," ruled Gonzalez. The album is filled with graphic descriptions of sex, genitals, and sodomy, and contains a song that suggests glorification of rape.

The album, which is labeled with the message "Warning: Explicit Language Contained," has meant legal troubles for Florida retailers before this latest incident. On March 15 a record store owner in Sarasota, Fla., was arrested for selling a copy of the album to an 11-year-old girl, and charged with selling material harmful to minors.

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Baptist Record

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